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# New health fees on expats, visitors

Kuwait FM heads delegation

## Arab League votes for Syria return



The Arab League extraordinary meeting at the permanent representatives level in session in Cairo on Sunday, May 7, 2023.

KUNA photo

## Smart recruitment for skilled delayed

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: The Public Authority for Manpower has postponed the launch of what it called the smart recruitment project for skilled expatriate workers for up to six months although the project was slated to roll out some weeks ago, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to PAM the project will benefit the Kuwaiti local market which suffers from a severe shortage of skilled workers.

At the time of its launch, the project will automate at least 20 vocational tests, identifying the 10 most required jobs in the local private labor market, which are recruited through private companies and institutions, with the aim of raising the percentage of labor quality in the private market.

The automated tests system will measure the true extent of the skill possessed by the worker who is to be recruited to work in Kuwait and the hiring will be subjected to passing the test before arriving in Kuwait to take up the job.

PAM, in a letter addressed to the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, requested for permission for temporary postponement of launching the project for skilled workers for because of non-cooperation of some government agencies with the members of the development plan team, who work for the authority, in order to make the project a success in order for it to appear in the fullest form, and benefit the state in particular, and the local market in general and PAM was unable to benefit from the preparatory stage.

Moreover, PAM needs further study of the preparatory and implementation steps in terms of adding and deleting steps to complete the work for the project in a manner consistent with its nature and the quality of its implementation on the ground in addition to the unrealistic implementation stages that were developed in the past, compared to the practical reality at the time of implementation.

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## Some exempt

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: The Ministry of Health has decided to impose new fees on expatriates and visitors and decision issued by the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi, details these fees, however, some category of the people who are being treated as Kuwaitis will not be affected by the decision, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Ministry of Health said, in the statement, that the fees do not include Kuwaiti patients, emergency or critical cases, cancer cases, children of non-Kuwaiti patients, or other humanitarian cases, and are limited to specific categories such as patients of non-emergency and pre-scheduled operations for non-citizens. This is within the framework of preserving the national strategic stock of blood and its derivatives.

The decision imposes new fees on some health services offered by government hospitals and clinics for expatriates registered in the health insurance system and receive services from the Blood Transfusion Services Department which boasts of 37 laboratories.

The daily said the fees range between half a dinar and 15 dinars for residents and for visitors it starts from 5 dinars and goes up to 70 dinars.

The decision also set the fees for blood bag exchange services at 20 dinars per bag for the resident and 40 dinars for the visitor. The decision exempts the patient from blood bag fees if there is a donor for each blood bag or its derivatives.

The sources said the decision states some groups of people who are being treated as Kuwaitis are exempted from these fees.

The following is the text of the decision:

**Article One:** Non-Kuwaiti patients residing and registered in the health insurance system shall pay fees for laboratory tests that are carried out in the 37 laboratories of the Blood Transfusion Services Department. The tests include for blood Group A-B-O test and the last of which is the platelet factor 4 test; service fees for dispensing blood bags and its derivatives, at the rate of 20 dinars for each bag.

**Article Two:** Non-Kuwaiti visiting patients who are not registered in the health insurance system receive such as fees for laboratory tests that are carried out in the laboratories of the Blood Transfusion Services Department. There are 37 laboratory tests, the first of which is the Group A-B-O test, and the last of which is the Platelet factor 4 test; service fees for dispensing bags of blood and its derivatives, at the rate of 40 dinars for each bag.

**Article Three:** The patient is exempted from the fees specified in Articles 1 (b) and 2 (b) in the event that there is a donor for each blood bag or its derivatives.

**Article Four:** The fees mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 shall be included in the automated systems (if any) in all facilities providing these services and in coordination between the Information Systems Department and the relevant authorities.

**Article Five:** Ministerial decisions regarding exemption of certain categories from fees and cases that are treated as Kuwaitis, according to the ministerial decisions regulating this, will continue to be enforced.

**Article Six:** This decision shall be notified to those who are required to implement it, and it shall be enforced as of its date, and it shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Another decision was issued, which stipulates:

**Article One:** The fees for laboratory analyzes in the Blood Transfusion Services Department laboratories for private medical sector are approved; first of which is the Group A-B-O examination, and the last is the Platelet factor 4 examination, according to the attached Table No. 1.

**Article Two:** The fees for dispensing blood bags and its derivatives to the private medical sector are approved at 20 dinars for each blood bag and its derivatives.

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### NewsWatch

### Roadmap set

**KUWAIT CITY:** The State of Kuwait on Sunday dispatched its fourth Air Force plane carrying 10 tons of food supplies to violence-hit Sudan.

The aid aircraft is part of the recently announced airlift aiming at helping the Sudanese people amid their country's tough circumstances due to ongoing fighting there, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Emergency Chief Yusuf Al-Mearaj told KUNA.

Variation in Kuwait's relief and humanitarian aid is primarily meant to answer the basic needs of the Sudanese people, he said, elaborating that the country's humanitarian airlift is continuing as per blueprints and programs jointly worked out by the KRCS and the ministries of foreign affairs, defense, health and finance. (KUNA)

**KUWAIT CITY:** Kuwait welcomed on Sunday the Saudi-US initiative to start initial talks held between Sudanese warring parties' representatives in Jeddah earlier on Saturday, said Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In a press statement, the ministry praised Saudi-US efforts for urging Sudanese parties to seriously get engaged in talks and dialogue in a bid to de-escalate tensions and halt military operations. (KUNA)

**KHARTOUM:** The Tripartite Mechanism, which comprises the African Union, the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa and the United Nations, welcomed Saturday the Saudi-US initiative to facilitate dialogue between Sudan warring parties.

In a press statement, the mechanism hoped the Saudi-hosted talks between representatives of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the rival Rapid Support Forces (RSF) which started today in Jeddah would end up with a comprehensive agreement on stopping fighting and allowing unimpeded access to humanitarian aid. (KUNA)

**RAMALLAH:** Israeli Occupation forces demolished early Sunday, Al-Tahadi School 5 located east of Bethlehem, where 66 students diligently study.

Chair of the Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission in Bethlehem Hassan Brejeh stated the occupation forces with their military vehicles stormed the town and began destroying the brick and tin building, only a few hours before the beginning of the school day. (KUNA)

**TEL AVIV:** Israeli authorities released a Jordanian lawmaker to his home country on Sunday. Israel's domestic security agency said, after he allegedly tried smuggling dozens of rifles and handguns through an Israeli-controlled border crossing. (AP)

CAIRO, May 7. (Agencies): Arab government representatives in Cairo voted Sunday to return Syria to the Arab League after a 12-year suspension, according to the organization.

Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah headed on Sunday Kuwait's delegation participating at the Arab League extraordinary meeting at the permanent representatives level, upon Egypt's invitation the Chairman of the 159th session, with participation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Republic of Iraq, to discuss the developments of the Syrian file.

The Arab Foreign Ministers agreed to allow the Syrian delegation to take part in the Arab League's meetings, in an step showing keenness to resolve the conflict in the fellow Arab country, said Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday.

Answering a KUNA question during a press conference on the sideline of Arab Foreign Ministers meeting, Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah revealed that the decision had reflected Arab keenness on the unity of Syria and a strong desire to resolve the long conflict.

The vote in the Egyptian capital came days after regional top diplomats met in Jordan to discuss a roadmap to return Syria to the Arab fold as the conflict continues to de-escalate, and soon before Saudi Arabia hosts the upcoming Arab League Summit on May 19.

Syria's membership in the Arab League was suspended 12 years ago early on in the uprising-turned-conflict, which has killed nearly a half million people since March 2011 and displaced half of the country's pre-war population of 23 million.

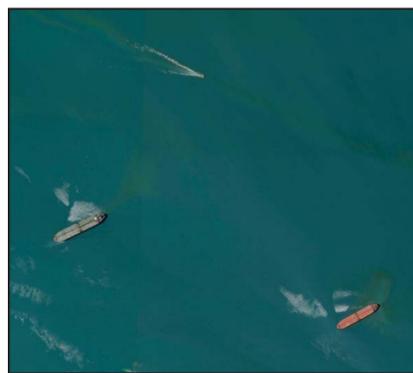
All 13 of the 22 member states that attended the session endorsed the decision. The Arab League generally tries to reach agreements by consensus but sometimes opts for simple majorities.

There is still no Arab consensus on normalization with Damascus. Several governments did not attend the meeting. Among the most notable absentees was Qatar, which continues to back opposition groups against Syrian President Bashar Assad's government, and continues to resist normalization with Damascus.

The decision for Syria to return also includes a commitment to ongoing dialogue with Arab governments to gradually reach a political solution to the conflict, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254. The Arab League in the decision also set up a communications committee consisting of Saudi Arabia and Syria's neighbors Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq to follow up on developments.

### 'Advantage Sweet' carried Kuwaiti crude

## Sat snaps Iran-seized tankers



This satellite image from Planet Labs PBC shows the seized oil tankers Niovi, (left), and Advantage Sweet, (right), off the coast of Bandar Abbas, Iran, Saturday, May 6, 2023. (AP)

DUBAI, May 7. (AP): Two oil tankers recently seized by Iran are anchored off the coast of one of its key port cities on the strategic Strait of Hormuz, according to satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press on Sunday.

The photos from Planet Labs PBC showed the Advantage Sweet and the Niovi being just south of Bandar Abbas near a naval base in the port city in Iran's Hormozgan province Saturday. Their capture represents just the latest ship seizure conducted by Iran amid tensions with the West over its rapidly advancing nuclear program, though it appears the two ships may have been taken for different reasons.

Iran seized the Marshall Islands-flagged Advantage Sweet, staffed by 23 Indians and one Russian, on April 27 as it traveled in the Gulf of Oman. Tehran claimed the vessel had struck another ship, though tracking data for the Advantage Sweet showed no erratic behavior on its trip. Iran has made claims in the past over ship seizures to cover for the vessels being taken to use as pawns in negotiations with the West.

The Advantage Sweet carried Kuwaiti crude oil for American energy firm Chevron Corp. of San Ramon, California, at the time of its capture. And its seizure comes as another tanker believed to be carrying Iranian crude disappeared from anchorage off Singapore a year after being identified as trying to evade U.S. sanctions.

The Financial Times, as well as the maritime intelligence firm Ambrey, both have reported that ship named Suez Rajan was seized by order of American authorities. U.S. officials and those associated with the Suez Rajan have not responded to questions about the tanker's disappearance while on a westward path.

Satellite images showed a second ship, the Niovi, a Panama-flagged tanker, which was seized by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard on Wednesday as it left a dry dock in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, bound for Fujairah on the UAE's eastern coast. While not carrying any cargo, data from S&P Global Market Intelligence seen by the AP showed the Niovi in July 2020 received oil from a ship known then as the Oman Pride.

### Hopefuls total 85

## First woman for poll

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: The number of candidates in the parliamentary election scheduled for June 6 reached 85 (84 men and one woman) on Sunday – the third day of the 10-day registration period for candidates.

A total of 24 candidates registered on Sunday as follows:  
**First Constituency:** 1. Hamad Al-Medlej; 2. Dawoud Sulaiman Ma'arefi; 3. Ali Abdulrahman Al-Kandari; 4. Ali Falah Al-Saberi; 5. Muhammad Abbas Hayat

**Second Constituency:** 1. Ahmed Khedr Al-Anzi; 2. Bader Nashmi Al-Anzi; 3. Hassan Husain Dashti; 4. Abdullah Farraj Al-Harbi; 5. Waleed Homoud Al-Subaie

**Third Constituency:** 1. Hamad Abdulrahman Al-Alyan; 2. Sami Abdulaziz Al-Menei; 3. Mubarak Zaid Al-Arow; 4. Muhammad Kezem Muhammad

**Fourth Constituency:** 1. Ali Awad Al-Rashedi; 2. Fawaz Menseher Al-Dufairi

**Fifth Constituency:** 1. Ahmed Muhammed Al-Otaibi; 2. Bader Majed Al-Mutairi; 3. Fahd Falah Al-Azmi; 4. Faisal Talq Al-Azmi; 5. Faisal Abdulmajid Husain; 6. Hani Husain Shams; 7. Wasmi Muhammad Shenaier; 8. Yousef Marzouq Al-Mutairi

On the other hand, Assistant Undersecretary for Publishing and Media Affairs at the Ministry of Information Lafi Al-Sebaie said the concerned team is closely monitoring the media coverage of events related to the parliamentary election slated for June 6.

He also confirmed that the ministry is following up the social media accounts tackling the upcoming election. He added a number of social media accounts and media institutions have violated Decision No. 17/2023 on organizing the media coverage of the upcoming election; hence, legal action will be taken against them.

In a related development, Director of the Legal Affairs General Department at the Ministry of Interior Brigadier Saleh Al-Shatti disclosed in a press statement that the roster of eligible voters was published in Kuwait Gazette on

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## All new Toyota Urban Cruiser '23 unveiled

— Details Page 8 —

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	03:34	Asr .....	15:20
Sunrise ..	05:02	Maghrib ..	18:28
Zohr .....	11:45	Isha .....	19:53

# Local

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Rather hot and partly cloudy and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.  
**By Night:** Mild and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

## Weather

**By Night:** Mild and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Kuwait Airport	40	20
Abdaly	39	18
Jahra	40	23
Salmiyah	31	24
Ahmadi	30	26
Nuwaisib	33	20
Wafra	38	20

**CIVIL ID STATUS INQUIRY:** <https://e.gov.kw/sites/kgoenlsh/Pages/eServices/PACI/CivilIDStatus.aspx>



An injured soldier is carried away



US and Kuwaiti forces in the field



A Kuwaiti Special Forces soldier wears the anti-explosives gear

Photos by Samer Shaqir

## Kuwaiti-US forces hold exercises at Camp Arifjan

# American forces to stay in Kuwait for a long time: Colonel Wolgemut

By Shawky Mahmoud  
 Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: Commander of Area Support Group and head of base operations in camps Buehring and Arifjan Colonel Martin Wolgemut confirmed that the American forces will stay in Kuwait for a long time.

Wolgemut made the statement during the Kuwaiti-American military drill held Thursday at Camp Arifjan, during which five joint exercises in dealing with major emergency situations were conducted with the participation of 400 to 500 American soldiers and 50 to 60 Kuwaitis. All the exercises were successful and the American side praised the speedy action of the participating Kuwaiti forces.

After the exercises, Wolgemut met the journalists in his office. He explained that the five joint exercises are the result of planning that continued for three to four months in cooperation with the ministries of Defense and Interior and Kuwait Firefighting Force; including the disposal of ammunition and explosives, and patrol meetings every few weeks to plan the drill together.

He added: "It was a good opportunity to see the ability and readiness of the Kuwaiti side to respond quickly in terms of dealing with loss of life, the injured and explosives; as well as their capability to refer the injured to other hospitals in the areas. This is a very important ability, because we do not have much of that here."

He said: "The first exercise was an attack by a drone that was dealt with using a Patriot missile on the northern side of the base, which led to a large number of casualties. The second was a car explosion at the front gate and discovery of a damaged car outside the gate. The Kuwaiti Explosives Unit responded quickly, as it made a large security cordon outside the base and dealt with the two incidents with great efficiency. We are very happy with the unit's performance."

He praised the efficiency of the Kuwaiti forces, affirming that they are fully prepared to face any security emergency or terrorist act. He described these forces as "wonderful", and that they have already requested for more joint exercises.

He went on to confirm that "Air Defense Commander Brigadier General Khaled Ali Al-Hafiz attended the drill along with his team. They watched the drill at the Patriot site. I think they got some very good ideas about training and joint cooperation. According to the defense agreement with Kuwait, there will be bilateral American-Kuwaiti response to any emergency outside the base. Therefore, we have to work together in dealing with emergencies that occur on the edge of the base. I am very happy with the Kuwaiti response, which was ideal. We trained together for a very long time."



Col Wolgemut

Asked about the differences between the trainings held in the United States of America and in Kuwait, Wolgemut stressed there is no big difference. "They have a common language, they understand how to work together and train together. There are a few differences, but I think the joint exercises are going very well - better than I expected," he added.

He affirmed that they will send reports on the exercises to the ministries of Interior and Defense, in which they will provide a detailed description of the areas of strength. He said the performance was outstanding and the reports will shed light on the aspects that require both sides to work on their development.

He described the response of the participating Kuwaiti forces as "excellent in general, as they were fully prepared as soon as we contacted them. They came with many vehicles and individuals to help us provide security for the base, especially since the training was for an attack targeting the front gate, which is supposed to be wide open. They came with security forces who helped us deal with the casualties. Their presence was very helpful."

He also revealed that as per the agreement with the ministries of Interior and Defense, a minor joint training will be held between the two sides every three months; which could be a drone attack, bombing or shooting in the building, while there will be large and expanded trainings between the two sides once a year. He clarified that "the diversity of exercises is an indication of a well-defined plan to develop the capabilities of the Kuwaiti side. When we sat down with officials of the Ministry of Interior, we asked them about their most important training goals and they told us that they would like to train in specific styles, so we developed a plan in line with their required training. Car bombings are among the most common terrorist acts in the world, so the American and Kuwaiti firefighting, ordnance and explosives disposal teams worked together. They evaluated each other's performance. The performance of the Kuwaiti side was excellent in several aspects, the most important of which is the allocation of telephone numbers for better communication and quick response. They reached the site within 10 minutes in a very professional manner."

On the ability of the Kuwaiti Army and Police to confront and deal with such terrorist attacks in general, he asserted: "The Kuwaiti Army and Police play a crucial role in ensuring security and stability of the country. The defense cooperation agreement between the two countries states that we must provide security for each other. We provide security for the State of Kuwait and we can ask for help from the Kuwaiti side if we have an emergency."

He confirmed the continuous development of facilities at the base and huge infrastructure projects, which mean the American forces will stay in Kuwait for a long time. He added that training is one of the most important elements of cooperation between the two countries, indicating that many Kuwaiti soldiers underwent training in the United States.

## Fate of Health Faculty discussed

### 'Priority for students interests'

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: According to reliable sources at Kuwait University, the acting university director Dr. Fahad Al-Dubais held a meeting with the staff of the Faculty of Public Health on Tuesday in order to listen to the views of students, lecturers and administrators in the college regarding the college, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources explained that the meeting was called by the college administrators, faculty members, and the students of the Faculty of Public Health.

The main goal was to reassure the students that they are part of the dialogue table that will decide the expected scenario for the college, and that no decision will be taken that could harm the interests of the students or their aspirations.

Any decision that will be taken regarding merging the college with another college or keeping it the way it is will not harm the educational process of any student.

Al-Dabous announced at the meeting that a study had been submitted earlier to the University Council aimed at abolishing the college, but it was withdrawn pending further review.

He said he would send the notes included in the study regarding the fate of the college to the college so that the lecturers, administrators, and students could respond on these notes as decided by the college and at a time to be determined later.

Al-Dabous indicated in the meeting that there are three scenarios proposed for

the fate of the Faculty of Public Health. First scenario is that it can become the Faculty of Public Health and Nursing so that the college will include the nursing specialization that was scheduled to be introduced in the Medical Sciences Center recently.

The second scenario is that the college will include the Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences, and the third is to include the Faculty of Life Sciences.

The responses of the college's staff to the aforementioned observations and study will be taken into consideration in favoring one scenario over the other.

With regard to opening the door for admission to the college, the meeting included an idea that opening seats for admission in the Faculty of Public Health will be one of the axes of the next university council meeting during the next two weeks.

The sources said the meeting was aimed to reassure the fate of the college administrators, as the university administration confirmed that their job status will be the same no matter the fate of the college.

They indicated that some students, during the meeting, discussed the problems they face such as the lack of lecturers for some courses and specializations that they wish to study and will be influential in their appointment later in the Ministry of Health.

The sources revealed that Al-Dabous promised to work on assigning lecturers to teach these courses during the first semester.

# Call to hike beach protection

Panel, KFSD issue recommendations

**KUWAIT CITY, May 7: The Beaches Protection Committee, which ensures the availability of security and safety conditions and prevention from drowning, recommended the removal of all obstacles and barriers between the passages of private chalets by the Kuwait Municipality, and the appointment of staff and lifeguards to protect beachgoers at parks and resorts, reports Al-Qabas daily.**

According to informed sources, the Council of Ministers issued its decision on June 13, 2022 to form a committee to organize the beaches, headed by the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) and with representatives of government agencies concerned with that relevant matter as members whose job grades are not less than an assistant undersecretary, namely Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Public Authority for Youth, Kuwait Municipality, Environment Public Authority, Fatwa and Legislation Department and Tourism Enterprises Company.

In implementation of the provisions of the Cabinet and the ministerial decision, the Beaches Protection Committee held meetings under the KFSD chairmanship during which the committee unanimously decided to issue the following recommendations:

- 1 - Implementing the plan of the Ministry of Interior and KFSD to secure beaches during the summer season.
- 2 - A proposal to launch a tender for the concerned companies to secure public beaches that are not subject to a specific party, and to protect their visitors from the risks of drowning, according to the density of beachgoers, and the risks of the site in terms of depths and sea currents in the region.
- 3 - The Tourism Enterprises Company shall appoint employees and lifeguards to protect and secure visitors to its beaches.
- 4 - The parks and resorts shall appoint employees and lifeguards to protect and secure the beachgoers affiliated to them, and to use all means of prevention from drowning and marine safety.
- 5 - Kuwait Municipality will remove all existing obstacles and barriers between the corridors of private chalets in order to facilitate the arrival of rescue teams and emergency parties to the site, and reduce the response time to accident reports.
- 6 - Carrying out intensive awareness and guidance campaigns through various media and social networking programs as an extension of school awareness.
- 7 - Kuwait Municipality shall place warning and indicative signs along the dangerous beaches.
- 8 - Opening the door for cooperation and sponsorship by the company and banks in the summer emergency plan of 2023.

**Datura owner queried:** The Ministry of Interior has summoned the owner of the house for interrogation and has initiated a search warrant for the suspect who planted the Datura plant in front of the house in Rumaithiya since the use of this plant is forbidden according to the Anti-Narcotics Law, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Al-Rai daily said, securitymen are reportedly checking the CCTV cameras of the neighboring houses to find out more details.

This happened after the operations of the Ministry of the Interior received a report about the plant in front of a house in Rumaithiya and the Public Security Sector of the Rumaithiya Police Station of the Hawalli Governorate was tasked with dealing with the issue.

Meanwhile, it has been reported the seeds of Datura are analgesic, antihelmintic and anti-inflammatory and as such, they are used in the treatment of stomach and intestinal pain that results from worm infestation, toothache, and fever from inflammation. The juice of its fruit is applied to the scalp, to treat dandruff and falling hair.

Daturas have also been used as poisons, medicines, and ritual intoxicant agents since time immemorial. Each species has its own characteristic strong narcotic tropane alkaloids (typically scopolamine, atropine, daturine, and stramonine), which also make them among the most dangerous and poisonous plants known.

## Amir congratulates King Charles III

KUWAIT CITY, May 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday addressed a cable of congratulations to King Charles III, the Monarch of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and North Ireland, on his coronation.

His Highness the Amir sent the cable in his name and on behalf of the people of Kuwait.

He praised the solid and historic relations between the State of Kuwait and the UK, affirmed his aspiration to strengthen further the bonds of friendship, and promote cooperation between the two countries in various domains in the shadow of the Kuwait-UK strategic partnership.

His Highness the Amir wished King Charles III all the best, the UK and North Ireland optimum progress and prosperity.

### Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Saturday a cable of congratulations to King Charles III of the Great Britain and North Ireland, on his coronation.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince commended the his-

toric and distinguished ties between Kuwait and the United Kingdom, wishing King Charles III the best, and the UK further progress and prosperity, under the King's wise leadership.

### Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Saturday a cable of congratulations to King Charles III of the Great Britain and North Ireland on his coronation.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah congratulated Sunday British counterpart Ben Wallace on the coronation of King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

The ministry of defense relayed in a statement that Sheikh Talal sent a congratulatory cable to Wallace in which he wished the King further success and for the kingdom and its people further progress and prosperity.

The cable reflected the depth of relations between the two nations, and their aspirations for strengthened collaboration and joint work on all fronts, namely military ones.



Use of flyboard for limited fires.

KUNA photo

## Flyboard used in fire mishaps

Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced on Sunday that it will start using the Flyboard in some fire accidents that take place in narrow places.

In a press release, KFF said that it had conducted several trials on the Flyboard in the presence of the KFF

Chief Lt.-Gen. Khaled Al-Mekrad. It added that this experiment seeks to improve the quality of KFF services and equipment.

Several high-ranked members of the KFF have attended the practice, it noted. (KUNA)

## Settlement terms not disclosed

### Three cases in KIA office settled

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: According to Bloomberg, the Kuwaiti sovereign wealth fund has reached a settlement regarding a dispute over bonuses for former managers in its London office, after the dispute was the subject of several legal issues and involved an intervention attempt by the British government, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) engaged in a complex legal battle after the former director of the fixed income department at the Kuwait Investment Office in London Simon Hard filed a case with a labor court in Britain against the fund, alleging disclosure of confidential subjects and discrimination on the basis of age.

The agency said KIA responded

by filing a lawsuit with the Supreme Court, accusing Hard of wasting the fund's budget by raising salaries and bonuses when an executive director was on vacation.

The fund was then required to hand over sensitive documents in the labor case and the British Foreign Office was implicated in the case, in order to clarify whether some employees enjoyed diplomatic immunity.

Cases have also been filed against the fund by former director of the Securities Department Prashant Vithlani and former director of Human Resources Caroline Teller.

A court official affirmed that the three lawsuits have been withdrawn, but the terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Repercussions of political scene leads to spread of malicious rumors'

"THIS article is considered the seventh, in which we borrow from the philosopher and socialist sociologist of Polish origin, Zygmunt Baumann, who authored the theory of "liquid modernity" and a series of books about it," columnist **Yaqoub Abdulaziz Al-Sanea** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"He was influenced by the Marxist thinker Antonio Gramsci, and belongs to the Frankfurt School, and from his book 'Modernity and the Holocaust' in 1989, from discovering an illusion of his victim, demonizing the victim and neutralizing the conscience, and from the pathological fear of the different other to racism.

"Juan Goitsolo says, 'In scenes after the battle ... there seem to be few causal relationships clearer than the causal relationship between anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, and then something evil crept in'.

"Little by little, in silence, and in stages that seemed free from any harm, but a careful look at the events of the past clearly shows that the abundance of evidence and harbingers was not the result of coincidences, but rather was, so to speak, a latent possibility, which remained completely hidden, like a subterranean torrent that soon swells and expands before it rushes suddenly and violently above the surface of the earth, we only had to evoke the past, which witnessed the first ominous harbingers, and draw a diagnostic picture of its inevitable appearance.

"The logical conclusion is that racism is inevitably linked to strategies of aversion and hostility. If the conditions are favorable, racism requires the expulsion of the hated group from the land of the state, and if conditions do not allow this, racism requires the physical liquidation of the hated group.

"Expulsion and destruction are two sides of the same coin, which is exclusion, and racism as one of forms of social engineering, represented in the Reich state and the German kingdom of the spirit, the Nazi revolution was an exercise in social engineering, and it is an active policy that follows the principle of preserving racial health, and not in permanent reactions towards strangers or even in less clear identity conflicts, although they are present in all place, and at all times.

"It is true that fear of the other and fears of border conflict are abhorrent things. Mixing fear of the other on the one hand with racism and organized crime on the other is misleading and carries with it great harm.

"The prohibition of doing, advocating, or inciting, by any means of expression stipulated in Article 29 of Law No. 31 of 1970 amending some provisions of the Penal Code, to hate or contempt any group of society, or to stir up sectarian or tribal strife, or to spread advocacy ideas to the superiority of any race, group, color, origin, religious sect, gender or lineage, or to incite an act of violence for this purpose, or to broadcast, publish, print reproduce or circulate any content, print or visual material broadcast or rebroadcast false rumors that would lead to the aforementioned.

"The provisions of the preceding paragraph also apply to every person who commits an act outside the territory of the State of Kuwait that makes him a principal perpetrator or an accomplice in the crime, if all or part of it takes place in the territory of the State of Kuwait.

"Among the means of expression are the informational networks and the blogs on which it is published and other modern means of communication. "We are living today, due to the absence of the official spokesman for the

government, the spread of malicious rumors due to the repercussions of the political and parliamentary scene.

"Rather, we have come to calls for the fragmentation of Kuwaiti society, and the spread of a culture of arrogance fraught with incitement, and sometimes by using discrimination and calling for separation between the purebred and the naturalized as seen by some, including constitutional experts, by request by abolishing the 1994 law that made the legal positions for candidacy and voting equal between the children of those who obtained citizenship by incorporation and the children of naturalized citizens, despite the clarity of the text of Article 82 of the Constitution and the explanatory memorandum to it, and with a defect in not applying Article 2 of the Nationality Law to everyone born to a Kuwaiti father.

"In conclusion, we hope that the minister of information will exercise his competence, as we approach the general elections, by stopping anyone who has a license according to audio-visual channels or electronic media, or who violates what was stipulated in the Publications Law in its articles 19, 20, 21, and everything that disturbs national unity.

"Fighting the fake and external accounts, which unfortunately belong to some of those who emigrated and practiced hate speech, either with the intention of the government, or strife between the people of the same country."

**Also:**

"Today, after the issuance of the decree dissolving the National Assembly, and pending the setting of the date for the next elections; very frank and clear words must be said," columnist **Jassem Boodai** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"One of the constants in the lofty words delivered by His Highness the Crown Prince in his name or on behalf of His Highness the Amir of the country is his constant confidence in returning to the Kuwaiti people and his assurances that leadership is but hard work to achieve the interests of the people, an open heart to embrace their demands, and a mind that responds to their aspirations.

"In a quick recall of the words of the last ten days, it can be said that the sublime discourse was completely and hierarchically based in meaning and built on a basic constant, which is the relationship with Kuwaitis and the realization of their hopes.

"The following phrases that were included in the speech can be monitored, such as: "And that we know that our lives are in our work in the interest of the country and the citizens." And also: "We are proud of the people, rallying around their will, our weapons, fear of God, then sincerity of intentions and purity of hearts."

"Remaining and adhering to the constitution and proud of the people as the owner of the heard word in determining their own destiny." And His Highness continues: "Getting out of the repercussions of the current political scene requires us to refer to the constitution as the reference and the document of governance and rally around the people and implement their desires (...) We must respect the will of the people."

"He concludes: "And out of respect for the popular will, we have decided to dissolve Parliament." As for the reason, "it is the victory of the popular will, which requires with it the need to return to it in new elections."

"Returning to these phrases is more than necessary to move from their inclusion in the sublime speech to their reaching the minds and hearts of Kuwaitis.

"The ball is in their court today, especially with an authority that declared absolute support for them and their choices and did not interfere in

their will, neither in the course of the electoral process nor in the arrangements for organizing the management of the legislative authority.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that the upcoming elections are very important, and may even be the most dangerous in the history of the Kuwaiti elections, because they are a dividing line between the consecration of the state of institutions or the continuation of chaos, and because they will build a stronger partnership in power, and because the good choice will produce a representative council that combines the power of legislation, oversight and the will to cooperate.

"At the same time, to get out of the tunnel in which we live, not to mention the regional conditions that require cohesion and adherence to stability and national unity.

"The Kuwaiti leadership has put its trust in the people and set its aspirations in mind in any move and directed more than one salutation in word and deed, and it remains for the Kuwaitis to return the salutation in the same way and to accept the election with enthusiasm and intensity to choose the fittest, the best, and the trustworthy on his oath, and to draw covenants and pledges between them and the candidates by obliging them to nationally inclusive programs.

"There is no place for racist and sectarian rhetoric in it, and it is developmentally advanced, based on the economic projects carried by the candidates, and the necessity of including the interest of new generations and a greater role for youth under the umbrella of social justice.

"Everyone is called upon to review oneself, assess the situation, evaluate previous experiences with all that is in them, and be convinced that the country is more important than people, no matter how high their ranks, and we must recognize that, as much as we are proud of our democracy, our public freedoms, and our constitutional gains that we will not accept as a substitute, keeping development trains paralyzed at their stations harms and weakens these gains, while personal disputes and conflicts between the authorities add more rust to the lines of these trains.

"How much we wish for a new political scene in which everyone cooperates or disagrees on programs, projects, and laws in elegant ways, and that people's interests are absolutely separated from these differences, so that institutions work according to advanced mechanisms to achieve these interests and improve services to the people.

"And if we advise everyone that experiences should be evaluated and revisions should be made for the previous stage in preparation for a new stage that everyone hopes will dominate the political and economic scenes, then let us start with ourselves as a fourth authority, and specifically we are in the "Al-Rai" media institution with its newspaper, television, means of communication, website and center for studies, we say that we in the upcoming elections, an open platform for all those with different political orientations in Kuwait to make their voices heard for the majority of groups in our society.

"We publish and broadcast any position of any candidate, no matter how loud or different, and we cover his activities with all their seminars, visits and statements.

"Every candidate is a Kuwaiti who represents his constituents, and therefore the nation if he wins membership, and Kuwait needs everyone's cooperation and solidarity in order to make the electoral process a success."

— Compiled by **Ahmad Al-Shalzi**



Al-Sanea

### Other Voices

## Humanity will go through perilous phase in history

By **Ahmad alsarraf**

This year, humanity will pass through one of the most dangerous stages in its history, in which the need for man will diminish, and dependence on the machine will increase, and its control over all the course of our lives, after we were in control, as it will have creativity and thinking capabilities that are millions of times greater than our ability to produce and think! This year will not pass before we see the fingerprints of or artificial intelligence, under which lies a new world of inventions and sensory and intangible perceptions.



alsarraf

The danger of artificial intelligence programs and robots lies in their ability to "teach" themselves, plan for the future, avoid making mistakes, and their ability to read our thoughts by converting them into words, and this is only part of the upcoming scientific revolution!

Sundar Pichai, head of Google, tells the popular '60 Minutes' talk show broadcast by CBS News that the next evolution will be "good and bad," as is human nature. The revolution is coming faster than we can imagine, and society (meaning the West, let alone the reaction of our miserable societies) may not be ready for what is to come; and the Yard system, which represents Google's answer to Microsoft's ChatGPT, will not only be a high-speed search device, but a unique creativity and creation tool capable of providing a set of suggestions for the text of a lecture received in a university, for example, or a factory, in a way thousands of times faster than the ability of any human being, and in a manner more accurate and cool.

It is also possible to request the summary of the Holy Book, for example, in a sentence of seven words, and the translation of the sentence into Latin, for example, and this will be completed in 9 seconds. The program will also be able to write a short story, with a sad ending, and another with a happy ending, and in seconds too.

The vice president of Google says that AI will enable us to change our thinking pattern, the way we act on any problem, and even the way we speak, and that the time it takes for a talented novelist to write a wonderful story is

enough for the program to write a million similar novels to it!

He predicted that many would lose their jobs, new jobs would be created, and the nature of some of them would change, so that the impact would extend to everything that minds produce in operating rooms, wars, factories and product designs, and scientists in laboratories, doctors and pharmacists will be able to perform their work in a much better way, as they will have before them a scientific summary of what needs to be done. They have to do the next day of surgeries, etc., and achieve the best results.

Also, the greatest danger of artificial intelligence to humanity is its development in a way that is not in line with human values and goals, and this may lead it to act in ways that are harmful to humans, as the system can be programmed, with the aim of maximizing a specific goal, such as profit, and here actions will be taken that have inhuman consequences, such as the expulsion of workers or cause environmental harm.

The super intelligence may exceed human intelligence, so that a person is unable to control her or predict what she will do. And it could become disastrous if the program decides that a human group poses a threat to its goals or values, and therefore must be eliminated, or the program is used to develop independent weapons that can be used to target specific civilians, or to perform other immoral actions.

Also, AI devices or programs are currently teaching themselves new skills, which humans did not originally ask for, and were not within their reach, and it is not yet known how these programs or robots do that, and this constitutes a great source of fear for many, and this prompted Godfrey Hinton, known as the "Father of AI", to resign from his job as a director at Google, expressing his concern about the future of this scary technology, and that these machines and programs will very soon become smarter than us, much smarter.

Concurrently, an elementary school in Kuwait organized an event to honor the girls for wearing the Hijab. The event was welcomed by three quarters of the (ignorant) people.

Footnote: Sunday at 7:00 pm at the Lebanese Embassy to Kuwait I talked about my book titled (70 texts in 11 years ... on 70 years of passion)

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

## Traffic Dept issues 34,837 citations for various violations in one week

22 nabbed for expired 'iqama'

**KUWAIT CITY, May 7: The General Traffic Department patrols carried out a number of traffic campaigns in various roads to arrest violators of traffic rules and laws, reports Al-Rai daily.**

The weekly statistics of the General Traffic Department revealed that the campaigns resulted in the arrest of 22 people whose residency had expired, and they were referred to the competent authority, during the period from April 29, 2023 to May 5, 2023.

The GTD said 80 juveniles were referred to Juvenile Prosecution within a week and 85 violators laws were sent to precautionary detention in addition to issuing 34,837 traffic citations, 178 motorbikes and 34 vehicles were seized, 19 people and 25 wanted vehicles were seized and referred to the competent authorities by the traffic patrols during the same period.

The GTD has been conducting regular campaigns in an effort to maintain safety on the roads and enforce traffic laws. The campaigns have been successful in reducing the number of traffic accidents and promoting safe driving habits.

However, despite these efforts, there are still individuals who continue to violate traffic laws and put themselves and others at risk. The General Traffic Department is urging all drivers to abide by traffic laws and regulations in order to ensure the safety of all road users.

In addition, the department is calling on all individuals to ensure that their residency status is up-to-date, in order to avoid legal complications and potential arrest. Failure to renew residency permits can result in fines, deportation, and other legal consequences.

**Two fires tackled:** Acting on information firefighting teams rushed to a commercial complex in Salmiya Friday evening and put out the fire, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Public Relations and Media Department of the General Fire Force stated that a report was received to the Central Operations Department this, stating that a fire broke out in a commercial complex in the Salmiya area.

The Central Operations Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) said the fire was put out by Al-Bida and Salmiya fire stations.

The fire sources said the fire started in the kitchen of a restaurant in the basement of the complex but was immediately controlled. No injuries have been reported.

In another incident a building in Farwaniya area resulted in the injury to one person, while others who were trapped inside were rescued. As a precautionary measure residents of the building were evacuated and the fire was extinguished.

The Fire Department stated the fire destroyed the fifth floor apartment of the 8-storey building Friday afternoon.

**Biker dies in collision:** An unidentified motorcyclist died and one was injured after the bike collided with a car on the Kabad Road, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) stated after a report was received to the Central Operations Department firemen rushed to the spot and referred the remains of the victim to Forensics and the injured to the area hospital.

**Workers rescued:** Personnel from the Fire Fighting Department rescued cleaning workers who found themselves trapped on the scaffolding of a building in Shuwaikh, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Public Relations and Media Department of the DGFD stated after the Central Operations Department this morning, received a report that workers were stuck between the fifth and sixth floors of the building, help was sent to rescue them.



Local and imported liquor found in possession of one man.

### Huge cache of liquor seized

## 13 arrested in multiple crimes

**KUWAIT CITY, May 7:** In three separate incidents personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department have arrested 13 people for running a gambling den, bootlegging and impersonating police, reports Al-Rai daily.

In the Farwaniya governorate CID men arrested eight people for turning their apartment into a gambling den; one person was arrested from Hawally for promoting alcohol, and four police impersonators were arrested by the securitymen from the Al-

Ahmadi Governorate. The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said gamblers were found in possession of playing cards and money in cash.

The bootlegger was seized with 1,818 bottles of locally made booze, and 788 bottles of imported alcohol from his apartment.

In the Al-Ahmadi Governorate the CID men arrested four people for impersonating securitymen and robbing passersby.

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## Fire Dept shuts down 13 facilities

**KUWAIT CITY, May 7:** The Public Relations and Media Department at Kuwait Firefighting Force (KFF) said the Fire Prevention Sector inspection teams closed 11 facilities in Hawally, Farwaniya, Jahra and Ahmadi governor-

ates for violating the safety and fire prevention regulations, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to KFF, the inspection campaigns will continue to protect lives and properties.

## LOCAL

# Study cites recommendations on curbing cheating in exams

1,780 teachers and 1,725 students from 83 secondary schools take part

**KUWAIT CITY, May 7:** An unprecedented educational study with the participation of 1,780 teachers and 1,725 students from 83 secondary schools resulted in recommendations on combating cheating in secondary school exams;

including traditional means such as harsh penalties and strict procedures, reports Al-Rai daily.

For the first time in the history of the Education Ministry, a study focused on the depth of the cheating problem and touched on "the importance of linking the curricula with the



One of the students seen cheating. Al-Rai photo

teacher-specific reasons, and finally family- and community-related reasons.

## Cheating

According to the study, the most important ways to confront cheating in exams from the teachers' point of view are in this order: "making the student aware of the procedures he must go through in the event of cheating, preventing students from carrying telephones and electronic devices inside the examination hall, and the Ministry of Information must raise awareness on the danger of cheating with the help of prominent personalities who have societal value for young people and are appropriate to the ages of high school students."

The study highlighted the negative effects of cheating in exams as follows: "killing the spirit of competition among students, underestimating the importance of tests in evaluating academic achievement, giving unreal results and a false image of the educational process that produces graduates who lack competence and discipline at work. This will extend beyond the study, because an employee who is accustomed to cheating may misappropriate public money, engage in illegal activities, forge official documents and take bribes."

students' needs, desires and tendencies while canceling unnecessary data to focus on basic information."

The daily obtained a copy of the study conducted by the Research Department in the Curriculum Sector of the ministry. It determined the extent of cheating and its causes from the point of view of students and teachers, in addition to the methods of comprehensive confrontation.

## Penalties

The recommendations, which will be applied in the final exams of the current academic year, include harsh penalties for cheating students, use of jamming devices to block headphones, and not allowing any document containing ques-

tions to be taken outside the exam hall until at least an hour after the start of the exam.

The study revealed that 30.60 percent of the sample of students cheated in a subject at the secondary level; while 28.90 percent said they will try to cheat if there is an opportunity to do so, which means they have the desire to cheat. The most common methods of cheating in exams from the point of view of teachers are in this order: use of small headphones, mobile phones, hand signals and others; use of paper clips; and use of signs as agreed with classmates.

From the students' point of view, the reasons for cheating are related to curriculum and school administration, followed by student-specific reasons, then

## "Mujezat Al-Shifa" Reveal the importance of apitherapy to promote physical and mental health

Nutrition consultant at Mujezat Al-Shifa Company, Dr. Hoda Ahmed, said: The practice of apitherapy dates back to 6000 years ago.



It was practiced by the pharaohs, Greeks and Romans, where Aristotle and Hippocrates used bee venom for baldness. Its importance was inferred by Professor Marcus Hellener and his colleagues at the University of Justice-Liebig, Germany, in 2008 conducting a survey aimed at determining the level of experience of beekeepers in Germany with apitherapy and applying it to treat themselves and its impact on the physical and mental health of beekeepers, through a questionnaire published in beekeepers' magazines. And she reported that the participants in the study, who numbered 1059 beekeepers, and the ages ranged between 60 and 65 years, 95% of them were males and married, who spent 24 years in beekeeping, and 75% of them were from villages, and reported that honey is the easiest method of apitherapy in addition to its effectiveness. Followed by proboscis for the treatment of colds, sore throats and gums, treatment of chronic ulcers, wounds and burns, as well as for the general prevention of diseases, in addition to the importance of using pollen to strengthen the body and immunity.



Canadian Ambassador Aliya Mawani during her meeting with KRC's Chairman Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer. KUNA photo

## Mawani meets with KRC's chief

# Canadian envoy hails Kuwait's 'worldwide humanitarian role'

By Sarah Safar

**KUWAIT CITY, May 7, (KUNA):** Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Aliya Mawani extolled on Sunday the humanitarian and relief role of Kuwait in helping disaster-affected people around the world.

Speaking to KUNA, Mawani said, after her meeting with the KRC's Chairman Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer, that KRC's contribution to highlighting the civilized aspect of Kuwait, the government and people, and has become known in helping in the humanitarian field, thanking Kuwait's speed in providing support to those in need.

She discussed with Al-Sayer multiple issues in connection to humanitarian and

voluntary work and ways to enhance them between both sides, appreciating KRC's efforts to help the afflicted countries.

During the meeting, Mawani was briefed on the humanitarian programs implemented by KRC internationally and locally, and its great role in supporting countries, she noted.

In a similar statement to KUNA, Al-Sayer welcomed Mawani's visit to the KRC headquarters, stressing KRC's keenness to participate in Kuwait's humanitarian efforts.

The meeting mentioned the help provided by KRC to affected people, as well as its most vital humanitarian actions and movements to provide relief and assistance to the affected areas, Al-Sayer stated.

## 'Gold prices drop to \$2,017 per ounce'

**KUWAIT CITY, May 7, (KUNA):** Gold prices declined at the end of last week, closing at USD 2,017 an ounce, after achieving a historic high of USD 2,072 an ounce last Wednesday.

Gold declined by 1.5 percent, however, it maintained a level above USD 2,000 an ounce after data was issued from the US labor market, as the jobs report there showed an increase in employment by 253,000 jobs, while US unemployment declined to its lowest level in half a century at 3.4 percent, the Kuwaiti-based company Dar Al-Sabaek said in a report Sunday.

The rise in US Treasury yields for two years and 10 years had a sharp impact on gold after it reached 3.9 percent and 3.44 percent respectively, as the strength of the dollar fell slightly by less than half a percent, the report added.

It explained that the World Gold Council indicated in a report that there was a decrease in demand for gold by 13 percent during the first

quarter of this year on an annual basis, while the total supply of gold increased by one percent, driven by a record rise in mine production in the first quarter, which amounted to 856 tons, as these reasons had an impact on the decline in the price of gold last week.

Despite the decline in gold last week, analysts expect an increase in demand for gold as a successful alternative in economic crises, as a way to hedge against the possibility of any recession in the US, and this is what led to prices rising to a record level at USD 2,072 an ounce amid last week's trading, it stated.

Regarding the local market, the price of a 24-carat gram gold amounted to KD 20, while a 21-carat gram was KD 17.5, and the price of silver reached KD 296 per kilogram, it mentioned.

The ounce is one of the units of measurement of mass, which is equal to 28.349 grams, while a troy ounce of gold equals 31.103 grams.

## Money Supply up last March at KD 39.2 bln: Kuwait's CBK

**KUWAIT CITY, May 7, (KUNA):** The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced on Sunday that its data for the "Monthly Monetary Statistics" showed that the Money Supply (M2) went up by 0.4 percent last March, reaching KD 39.2 billion (around USD 129.3 billion).

The CBK's economic research department revealed in its data, obtained by KUNA, that Residents Private Sector Deposits (RPSD) in Kuwaiti Dinar increased by 0.4 percent to KD 35.8 billion (around USD 118 billion).

The Residents Private Sector Deposits in Foreign Currency went down by 1.1 percent to KD 1.7 billion (an estimated USD 3.6 billion).

The statement also revealed that local banks claims on CBK went up to reach KD 3.4 billion (around USD 11.2 billion).

Local banks total assets decreased by 0.8 per-

cent to register KD 85 billion (around USD 280 billion), while net foreign assets went up by one percent KD 10.1 billion (around USD 33.3 billion).

Time deposits with the CBK jumped last March by 76 percent to KD 2.6 billion (estimated USD 8.5 billion).

Balance of utilized cash credits facilities decreased by 0.6 percent to KD 52.3 billion (an estimated USD 172.5 billion).

Interest rate (return) on one-year treasury bonds remained stable at 4.5 percent last March.

Financing of Kuwaiti imports leaped by 60.3 percent to KD 1.1 billion (around USD 3.6 billion), while average USD exchange rate against KD (fils) went up by 0.3 percent last March to 306.6 fils.

## New health

Continued from Page 1

**Article Three:** The health facility in the private medical sector is obligated to exempt the patient from the fees for dispensing blood bags and its derivatives if there is a donor for each blood bag or its derivatives.

**Article Four:** The private medical sector is responsible for providing blood transfusion service to and from the laboratories of the Blood Transfusion Services Department, provided that the means of transport are in accordance with the standards and controls issued by the Ministry of Health.

**Article Five:** This decision shall be notified to those who are required to implement it, and it shall be enforced as of its date, and it shall be published in the Official Gazette.

The Ministry affirmed what was stated in the decision to exempt the patient from all fees, if there is a donor for each blood bag or its derivatives, wishing everyone good health and safety.

## First woman

Continued from Page 1

May 6. He said voters must present their civil identification card and original citizenship certificate on Election Day. He explained the judge will check the certificate to make sure it really belongs to the holder. He stressed that the relevant law stipulates "all measures taken concerning the final roster of eligible voters cannot be appealed."

Meanwhile, Fifth Constituency candidate Fahd Falah bin Jame'e unveiled his plan to run for the speakership if he wins in the election. Bin Jame'e is the son of the Azmi Tribe leader.

In a press statement after filing his candidacy, former MP Hani Shams asserted that the people are now tired of the frequent elections; indicating six consecutive parliaments did not complete their term.

He thinks there is a possibility that an appeal against the recent decree on dissolving the legislature will be filed later. He pointed out that the problem is not of the legislature, but the government as the latter dodged its responsibilities instead of facing the lawmakers and discussing the urgent bills.

Former MP Faisal Al-Kandari has no intention to raise the slogans that people are now fed up with. "Enough is enough in terms of personal disputes. The citizens' prosperity should be our priority," he concluded.

Fourth Constituency candidate Fahd Al-Juwaid disclosed that he will focus on the

implementation of political reform. If he wins in the election, he will present a bill on allowing Kuwaitis to complete their higher studies while working.

## Smart recruitment

Continued from Page 1

PAM also identified what it called inaccurate and inconsistent timelines for launching the project with the timeframe set for its completion; needs time to re-establish the basic ideas and identify the parties concerned with implementing the project to ensure its success.

In the same context, informed sources told Al-Qabas that postponing the launch of the project comes in the interest of the project, in order for it to start in a professional manner that is destined for continuity and success.

The sources stated the authority aims to launch the project with a number of qualitative goals, the most important of which is to raise the efficiency of workers with academic and professional qualifications, and to activate and strengthen the supervisory role and inspection of professions.

PAM confirmed that among the objectives of the project is to strengthen the labor market with professionals with strict adherence in terms of the worker and the company he works for.

The sources stated that the smart recruitment of expatriate workers will not be random, but will include measurement indicators to achieve the objectives of the project, as well as building an attractive work environment to settle the national labor of Kuwaiti youth in the private market.

The most important components of the smart recruitment project for skilled expatriate workers are as follows:

■ Setting tests for expatriate workers to be recruited, according to the profession for which they are being recruited, provided that the tests are held under academic supervision and accreditation.

■ Raising the efficiency of the performance of the local private labor market, and meeting its professional needs for skilled expatriate workers.

■ Continuous updating of occupations, occupational and standard descriptions according to the needs of the labor market.

■ Direct coordination with the relevant government agencies, such as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Trade and Industry, the Industry Authority, Kuwait Municipality, the Public Authority for Civil Information, and other agencies.

■ Approve laws and decisions that guarantee adherence to professions and their adoption in all sectors pertaining to the labor market.

  
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Celebrations reflect more modern face of Britain: Ambassador Lewis

British Embassy hosts reception to mark King Charles III coronation

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: On Saturday 6 May, the British Embassy Kuwait hosted a spectacular evening Reception to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

The Reception was attended by many dignitaries, including Guest of Honour His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Amiri Diwan Affairs. The British Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Her Excellency Belinda Lewis, emphasised the excellent and historic ties between the UK's Royal and Kuwait's Ruling Families in her remarks. These were evident earlier in the day when His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, attended the Coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey.

Diversity

Ambassador Lewis also noted that the celebrations of His Majesty The King's Coronation reflected a more modern face of Britain and involved a greater diversity of participation. She added that the scale of public interest in Kuwait about the Coronation reflected the strong cultural links between the UK and Kuwait, and expressed her confidence that this bilateral friendship will continue to develop and grow even stronger in the future.

His Excellency the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defence, Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah, gave the following statement commending the Reception's success:

"I would like to express my sincerest regards and appreciation to the Ambassador of the UK, H.E. Belinda Lewis, for giving us the opportunity to participate in today's ceremony. It is both an honor and a privilege to be here with you all tonight to celebrate and participate in



Photos during the reception to celebrate Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

His Majesty King Charles III's coronation ceremony.

On the occasion of this historic event that we are witnessing today, I would like to convey the sincerest congratulations and blessings of His Excellency the First Deputy Prime

Minister, Minister of Interior, and acting Minister of Defense, Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and all Ministry of Defense affiliated organizations, to the UK leadership and people. Also, I would like to take the opportunity to recall the

UK's special status for Kuwait's leadership and people.

Emphasis on the pioneering role of His Majesty King Charles III in consolidating the historical and distinguished bilateral relations since the establishment of the Anglo-

Kuwaiti Agreement of 1899, which spanned nearly 124 years between the UK and Kuwait. In 1991, the UK underlined this historical friendship as a vocal member of the international coalition during the liberation of Kuwait. Remembering that the

blood of British soldiers was mixed with Kuwaiti blood on the soil of Kuwait, which remains a testament to the profoundness and stability of the bilateral relationship, as it was and will remain a unique model between countries."



KUNA photos  
KRCS delivers food, medical supplies to affected families in Khartoum.

Supplies include 1,750 food baskets

KRCS delivers supplies to affected families in Sudan

KUWAIT CITY, May 7, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society announced Friday that it delivered food and medical supplies to families in the Qatari and Sudanese red crescent societies.

In a statement to (KUNA), Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer said that supplies distributed among families using schools as shelters included 1,750 food baskets, relief materials, 2,000 ready-made meals for travelers, and 1,500 health materials for those departing from Port Sudan.

He pointed that relief supplies reach the beneficiaries directly, in coordination with the Sudanese Red Crescent in Khartoum, which supports international efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to the needy.

Al-Sayer expressed deep thanks and appreciation to the Ministries of Defense, represented by the Air

Force, Foreign Affairs and Health, for their efforts in delivering aid to the brothers in Sudan.

He indicated that cooperation with the Qatari and Sudanese red crescent societies is the result of the cooperation agreements that emanated from the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization and the recommendations of the GCC General Secretariat.

Al-Sayer added that this support to brotherly Sudan is based on the directives of the supreme leadership and the fraternal relations that bind the peoples of the two brotherly countries.

He stressed Kuwait's commitment to providing humanitarian support and contributing to international efforts aimed at alleviating the human suffering of the Sudanese people as a result of their current difficult conditions.

ABS students visit Al-Kharafi Center for disabled children to hand over donation

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: The American Baccalaureate School (ABS) students visited Al-Kharafi Activity Center for Disabled Children recently to hand over the check donation; in line with their commitment to support charitable institutions in the country, reports Al-Qabas daily. The proceeds of the school's

carnival, which was held on March 18 this year, were allocated for the center – the first of its kind in providing a pioneering and unique experience in the field of special education.

ABS organizes the annual carnival in a bid to raise funds for charities – one charitable organization per year.

Protocol signed to employ Kuwaitis in supervisory positions in cooperatives

Institute enrolls 600 for various courses

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Public Authority for Manpower signed Sunday a protocol launch a platform for employment of Kuwaitis in the cooperative societies in the supervisory positions, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The protocol was signed in the presence of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Assistant Undersecretary for Cooperatives Sector Affairs in the Ministry, the Public Authority for Manpower (National Manpower Sector) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Cooperative

Societies.

According to the ministry sources the protocol defines the mechanisms to hire citizens who wish to join the cooperative societies sector after fulfilling all conditions.

In other news, the Non-commissioned Officers and Personnel Training Institute of the Military Education Authority received, Sunday, 600 applicants who have passed the tests and medical examinations for the non-commissioned officers and personnel courses, within the framework of the Army General Staff continuing to implement the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled to make way for Kuwaiti youth to join the armed forces and to

provide all forms of support and encouragement to serve the country in various positions and specializations, reports Al-Rai daily.

It should be noted that last March, the General Staff of the Army accepted 277 applicants who passed the tests and medical examinations, followed by 400 in April. The ceiling for the number of those accepted in the current batch has been raised from 350 to 600 in order to speed up the pace of admission and enrollment.

The registration door will continue to be open throughout the year and not be restricted to specific periods. Applicants for these courses will also be approved as soon as they fulfill the conditions and pass the prescribed medical tests and examinations.

'Lots of work ahead of us in EU & DARP delegation on various issues'

EU, GCC express determination to boost cooperation

BRUSSELS, May 7, (KUNA): Diplomats from the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have voiced keen interest and determination to strengthen cooperation and relations between the two regional blocs.

These views were expressed at a meeting of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the Arab Peninsula (DARP) in Brussels Thursday evening.

Hannah Neumann, chair of DARP announced that the two topics on the agenda were the election of a vice-chair, and DARP's upcoming mission to Oman.

She noted that after the resignation of Belgian MEP Marc Tarabella in January the seat of the second vice chair of DARP has been empty.

DARP MEPs present at the meeting elected by acclamation 38-year old MEP from Denmark Niels Fuglsang as vice chair.

Issues

"We have a lot of work ahead of us in the EU and the DARP delegation on various issues," said the new vice chair in his short acceptance speech.

Fuglsang who comes from an energy background, said energy cooperation between the two sides is "very important for both sides." "My focus will be on both critical dialogue about human rights, democracy and also energy cooperation, which must be made green. Looking forward to work," he stressed.

Neumann announced that on 18 June DARP will hold a meeting on women empowerment in the Gulf, and is also planning a visit to Yemen in July.

In mid-May DARP will pay a visit to Oman to hold the inter-parliamentary meeting aimed at boosting relations between the two sides, she said.

Anna-maria Panagiotakopolou, head of division for Arabian Penin-



KUNA photo  
Counselor at the GCC mission in Brussels Abdulwahab Besharah

sula and Iraq in the EUs diplomatic service called the EU External Action Service (EEAS) said "the EEAS values very much the cooperation with the European Parliament and we deem it necessary to plan a common policy for the region together."

She said that the adoption of the Joint EU Communication on a Strategic Partnership with the Gulf in May 2022 "provides a solid base for a more comprehensive partnership."

Further, she said the five-year joint EU-GCC Cooperation plan adopted in February 2022 is progressing "despite some setbacks and difficulties and stressed that it is important to continue engaging GCC partners to enhance relations in a wide range of areas."

The region is gaining importance and the EEAS plans to open a new Delegation in Oman in 2024, the fifth in the Gulf region after Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait and Qatar, said the EU diplomat.

The six-member GCC includes Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

She announced that the next EU - GCC ministerial meeting is scheduled to be held in Muscat probably next October during the Omani chairmanship of the GCC.

"Oman plays a key role to maritime security and also in mediation efforts," as in Iran and Yemen, she said, adding that cooperation is also expanding in key areas such as clean energy.

The 12th EU inter-parliamentary meeting with Oman on 13 to 17 May in Muscat will be an important event to explore a stronger EU-GCC engagement as Oman holds the current GCC Presidency, she said.

The visit of the DARP mission to Oman will be a good opportunity to bring the two regions closer, highlighted Panagiotakopolou, who is from Greece.

Commenting on the visa-free travel for GCC citizens to the EU, she said "it is an important issue in our bilateral agenda", adding that "we strongly believe that we should have a visa-free strategy for all GCC countries."

On her part, Omans ambassador

in Brussels, Rua Al Zadjali, presented a roundup of Omani-EU relations in the political, parliamentary, economic and cultural areas and highlighted the extensive opportunities to enhance bilateral cooperation.

"The Sultanate of Oman and EU share many common interests including regional security, economic cooperation and cultural exchanges," she said.

Enhancing

On his part, Abdulwahab Besharah, counselor at the GCC mission in Brussels, in his intervention said the GCC acknowledges the important role of the European Parliament in enhancing relations between the GCC and the EU, and in this context, the GCC warmly welcomed the adoption of the Joint Communication on a Strategic Partnership with the Gulf.

"The GCC values in this regard enhancing parliamentary dialogues between the GCC countries and the European Union, and calls for maintaining regular meetings between the Shura Councils, Houses of Representatives, Parliaments, the National Assembly of the GCC countries, and the European parliament, as these meetings and dialogues contribute to strengthening the relations between the GCC countries and the EU, enhancing our cooperation in several policy fields and improving our mutual understanding," he stressed.

On her part, Neumann remarked that "I am glad to see that GCC now takes a more pro-active role. This may be due to your new boss (Jassem Al-Budaiwi) a friend of ours who I think knows very well how to maneuver the EU."

Al-Budaiwi served as Kuwait's ambassador in Brussels for six years before taking up his new post as the Secretary General of GCC in Riyadh last February.

# What's On



Photos from the event.

## 'Animate' celebrates students high standard of artwork

# Kuwait English School organises annual art exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: The annual art exhibition is a much anticipated event at Kuwait English School. The Art and Design Team were thrilled to open the 2023 exhibition entitled 'Animate' recently. Every year, the art exhibition celebrates the high standard of artwork at Kuwait English School, showcasing both guided and unaided pieces from students in Year 1 through to Year 13.

The artworks are created using a variety of techniques, including digital art, sculpture, textiles, recycled materials, photography and mixed media. Ms Jehan Carew, Head of Art and Design, and Chris Hansen, Head of School, opened the exhibition; welcoming guests including parents, educators and the South African and South

Korean ambassadors.

Also in attendance were the artists of the student body, who presented their work and guided the guests through the exhibition. Ms Jehan Carew hosted the event, accompanied by the Art and Design team: Dean O'Connor, Daniel Luke, Ms Malitta Fernandes, Robert Cowden, Liam Smyth and Mark Prins.

The theme of the exhibition is "Animate" which represents cartoons and livens creativity and movement in the artist's own way. It was set up to give the gallery experience of being immersed in art, including pop art figures clambering over the gallery, draped on textiles and cascading down the fabric. Students reflected on their personal experiences to come up with their own perspectives

on the 'Animate' theme. They used unique media and tools to illustrate movement and emotion in their work. The exhibition was punctuated with a variety of technological presentations. A display of Design Technology featured toy automatons for guests to interact with. One student gave a presentation on special effects, detailing how prosthetics are made by hand and altered in post-production in the film industry. The exhibition also featured a robot which was built by the school robotics team for a competition hosted by the Gulf University for Science and Technology.

The exhibition was very well received by all guests. Chris Hansen, Head of School, commented on the excellent quality of the masterpieces, and reported that he

learned a lot about anime. Hansen has a passion for art and views the creative subjects as one of Kuwait English School's biggest strengths. Mrs Janet Carew, the previous Senior High School Principal of Kuwait English School, was blown away by the stunning work. This was the first exhibition she visited since she left the school, and she found that the 'Animate' theme added dimension to the artwork. The South African ambassador was most impressed by the artists presenting their own work. His Excellency Manelisi Genge believes that art should relax the mind, and he was glad to find such relaxing pieces at the exhibition. The South Korean ambassador stated that it was a pleasure to attend the exhibition, and he found the artwork inspiring.



Photos from the event.

## Spectacular program held

# ICSK celebrates spirit of 'Eid-ul-Fitr' with its staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: The festival that upholds the spirit of brotherhood and love 'Eid-ul-Fitr' was celebrated in the Indian Community School, Senior on 29th April 2023, Saturday in a distinctive festive atmosphere filled with irrepressible positive feeling and gusto. Decorated with lights and vibrant hues, the auditorium had an ambience of serenity and happiness.

The programme commenced with the Islamic prayer recited by Munir Mohammed invoking the blessings of the Almighty.

Art Club Secretary, Vinod Lakshmanan extended a cordial welcome to the gathering. The Chief Guest of the event Hani Zain Elabden, from Arab Times was welcomed by Hon. Vice Chairman of ICSK, Vinukumar Nair and Principal and Senior Administrator of ICSK, Dr. V. Binumon. In his address, the Chief Guest expressed his joy and happiness to be part of the Family Celebration.

'Talent is a gift that everyone is

blessed with.' The staff of ICSK presented a spectacular cultural programme enriched with music, costumes, dance and entertainment. Unnikrishnan and Ms. Swarnalatha pulled the heartstrings of the audience with their melodious songs.

The scintillating dance performance by Nishad and Team added much exuberance and brought great joy to the gathering. The climax of the day that enraptured the audience was the mesmerizing musical performance by Sumit Toshkhani and Team.

Taking the celebration, a notch further an after-party was organized for the staff by the Board of Trustees.

Many fun-filled activities and games were arranged for the staff. Such gathering provides an opportunity for everyone to mingle and have some light moments.

A sumptuous spread of dishes savoured the taste buds of all. It was a day filled with fun, cheer and fervor.



Photos from the event.



A group photo from the event.

## Inter-school fair celebrates spirit of science

# ICSK Khaitan students shine at Scientia-2023

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: 'The scientific method trains the brain to examine and observe before making a statement of fact'

Kerala Art Lovers Association - KALA Kuwait in association with Balavedi, Kuwait organised an Inter-School Science Fair 'Scientia-2023' on Friday, April 28, 2023 to encourage and enlighten the students from various Indian schools in Kuwait to celebrate the spirit of science.

The fair was conducted in three different categories namely Sub Junior, Junior, Senior and focused on creating working models based on Science, Social Science, Mathematics and various Work Experiences.

Scientia was a wonderful experience for all the participants as it gave them an exposure to innovation and thinking out of the box. The young minds exhibited their skills and abilities to understand the growing needs of people and their environment.

Dr. Vaisakha Thampi, Asst. Professor, M G College, also a science orator was the chief guest of the



A photo from the event.

event.

The Indian Community School Kuwait- Khaitan came out with an excellent performance of its students by winning many prizes and standing among top performing schools.

The school management congratulated the students and staff for their remarkable achievement.

Prize winners in various competitions and categories:

Science Fair: Working Model - Junior:

Second: Ayman Mohammed and

Siddique

Science Fair: Improvised Experiments - Senior:

Third: Ann Treesa Tony and Melisa Johnson

Social Science Fair: Charts - Sub-Junior:

Second: Ahsan Mohammed and Ayan Mohammed

Social Science Fair: Local History Writing - Senior:

Second: Roza

Third: Dev Dharshan

Social Science Fair: News Reading - Senior:

First: Mohammed Yousuf Khan

Second: Tevin Joe Thomas

Work Experience Fair: Paper Craft (on the spot) - Sub-Junior:

Second: Ahsan Muhammed

Work Experience Fair: Fabric Painting (on the spot) - Senior:

Second: Aleena Elza Bijo

Third: Vainavi Saril K

General Quiz:

Third: Ayman Mohammed, Malavika Vinod and Yogini Shirsath

General Rubik's Cube:

Third: Muhammed Hanif

## Iraq calls for urgent international help

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Al-Sudani on Saturday called for urgent international intervention to save the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, due to years of water scarcity crisis.

Prime Minister Al-Sudani made the plea for "urgent international intervention" at the start of the two-day Baghdad International Water conference.

In addition, he also warned that a shortage of water compounded by climate change would have a substantial impact on Iraq's economic development

and environment, with wider ramifications for regional stability.

"Iraq is one of the countries that reels under the impact of the climate change and its environment has seen substantial effects that have had economic and social impacts," he added.

"To save the Tigris and Euphrates we need an urgent international intervention from countries and organizations to help Iraq in this sensitive period of the history of its great rivers," he said. (KUNA)

## ex-Uber security chief sentenced for data-breach cover-up

The former chief security officer for Uber was sentenced to probation Thursday for trying to cover up a 2016 data breach in which hackers accessed tens of millions of customer records from the ride-hailing service.

Joseph Sullivan was sentenced to a three-year term of probation and ordered to pay a fine of \$50,000, the U.S. attorney's office announced.

Sullivan, 54, of Palo Alto was convicted by a federal jury in San Francisco last October of obstructing justice and

concealing knowledge that a federal felony had been committed.

It was believed to be the first criminal prosecution of a company executive over a data breach.

Sullivan was hired as Uber's chief security officer in 2015. In November 2016, Sullivan was emailed by hackers, and employees quickly confirmed that they had stolen records on about 57 million users and also 600,000 driver's license numbers, prosecutors said.

After learning of the breach, Sullivan

begun a scheme to hide it from the public and the Federal Trade Commission, which had been investigating a smaller 2014 hack, authorities said.

According to the U.S. attorney's office, Sullivan told subordinates that "the story outside of the security group was to be that 'this investigation does not exist,'" and arranged to pay the hackers \$100,000 in bitcoin in exchange for them signing non-disclosure agreements promising not to reveal the hack.

## Market Movements

05-05-2023

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts	
↑	JAPAN	- Nikkei	+0.12	29,157.95	UAE	- DFM	-0.21	3,583.09
	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+0.35	42,241.98	EGYPT	- EGX 30	-0.03	17,295.27
	PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	+0.02	6,685.66				
	SAUDI	- Tadawul	+0.41	11,118.77				

# Business

## Markaz: GCC Fixed Income markets sees slower issuing activity in Q1 2023 with total issuance of USD 28.3 billion

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" released its research report titled "GCC Bonds and Sukuk Market Survey for Q1-2023". In its quarterly Fixed Income Report, Markaz explains that Primary debt issuances in the GCC were off to the slowest start in three years during the first quarter of the year due to the tightening of monetary policy as well as continued macro volatilities. Primary issuances of Bonds and Sukuk in the GCC amounted to USD 28.3 billion in the first three months of 2023 compared to USD 36.3 billion raised during the same period in 2022, a decline of 22.1% year-on-year. In terms of the number of issuances, there were 62 primary debt issuances in the GCC during Q1-2023 compared to 76 issuances for the same period in 2022.

### Geographical Allocation:

Saudi-based issuers led the GCC Bonds and Sukuk market during Q1 2023, raising a total of USD 21.3 billion, representing 75.4% of the total value raised in the GCC, followed by the UAE entities with 19.9% of the total primary issuances or equivalent to USD 5.6 billion. Qatar entities raised a total of USD 0.9 billion representing 3.2% of the total primary debt issuances while Kuwaiti issuers raised a total of USD 0.4 billion in primary debt, representing 1.6% of all issuances. There has not been any debt issuance by Bahrain or Oman entities during Q1 2023.

Sovereign vs. Corporate: Sovereign issuances by GCC entities made up 60.2% of the total value of GCC primary issuances during Q1 2023, amounting to USD 17.0 billion and down 21.2% year-on-year from its value in Q1 2022. Corporate primary issuances, on the other hand, amounted to USD 11.3 billion during Q1 2023 constituting 39.8% of the total value of GCC primary issuances and marking a decline of 23.5% year-on-year from its value in Q1 2022.

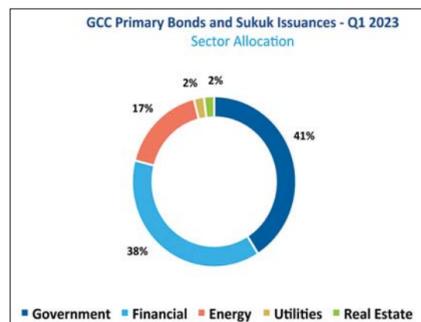
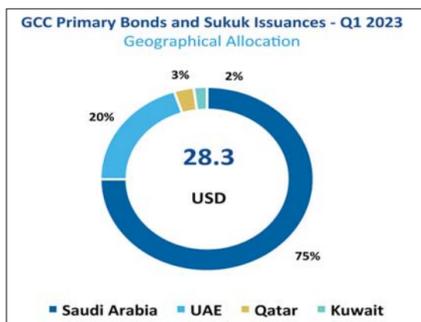
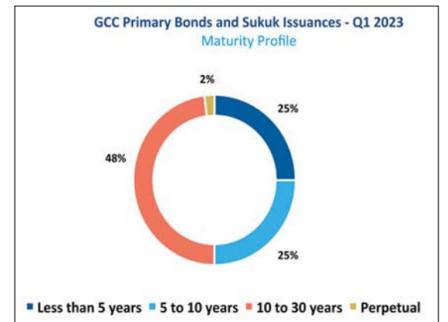
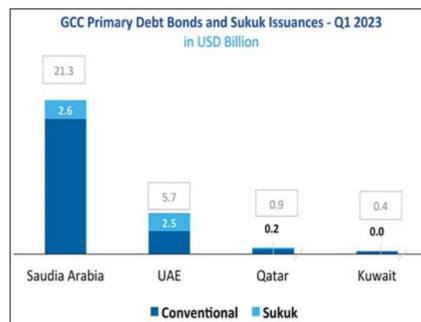
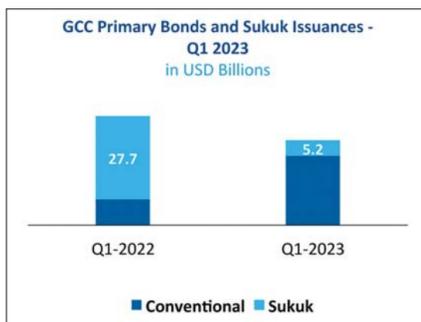
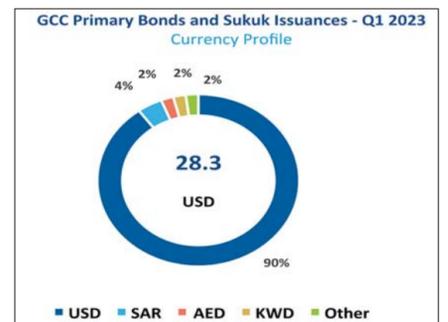
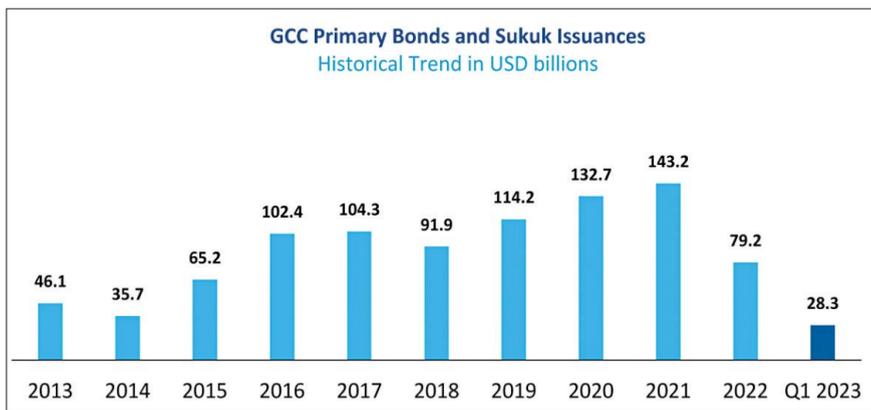
Conventional vs. Sukuk: Conventional issuances increased by 167.7% year-on-year during Q1 2023, with a total of USD 23.0 billion raised, representing 81.4% of the total value of primary issuances in the GCC. On the other hand, Sukuk issuances made up 18.6% of the total value of primary issuances during Q1 2023, declining by 81.1% year-on-year to USD 5.2 billion, compared with USD 27.7 billion raised in Q1 2022.

Sector Allocation: The Government sector accounted for the largest amount of primary debt issuances by value, raising a total of USD 11.5 billion, or 40.7% of the total value of issuances in the GCC in Q1 2023. The Financial sector (including quasi-government entities) was second in its contribution to the total value of primary issuances in the region, raising a total value of USD 10.9 billion and representing 38.6% of the total market.

Maturity Profile: Issuances with tenors of 10-30 years dominated the GCC debt capital markets by total value, raising a total of USD 13.5 billion, or 47.8% of the total value of issuances. Issuances with tenors of less than 5 years came in second with a total value raised of USD 7.2 billion, or 25.5% of the total value of issuances.

Issue Size Profile: The size of GCC Bonds and Sukuk primary issuances during the first quarter of the year ranged from USD 4 million to USD 3.5 billion. Issuances with principal amounts greater than or equal to USD 1 billion raised the largest amount totaling USD 22.0 billion, representing 78% of the total primary issuances.

Currency Profile: US Dollar-denominated issuances led the GCC Bonds and Sukuk primary market in Q1 2023, raising a



total of USD 25.6 billion or 90.4% of the total value of GCC primary issuances. This was followed by Saudi Riyal, where SAR denominated issuances raised a total of USD 1.1 billion or 3.9% of the total value of issuances in the GCC.

Rating: In Q1 2023, a total of 90% of GCC primary Bonds and Sukuk issuances (in terms of value) were rated by either one of the following rating agencies: Standard & Poor's, Moody's, Fitch and/or Capital Intelligence, of which 86% were rated as Investment Grade Issuances.

**About Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz"**  
Established in 1974, Kuwait Financial Centre K.P.S.C "Markaz" is one of the leading asset management and investment banking institutions in the MENA region with total assets under management of over KWD 1.154 billion as of 31 December 2022 (USD 3.77 billion). Over the years, Markaz has pioneered innovation by developing new concepts resulting in new investment channels. These channels enjoy unique characteristics and helped Markaz widen investors' horizons. Examples include Mumtaz (the first domestic mutual fund), MREF (the first real estate investment fund in Kuwait), and Forsa Financial Fund (the first and only options market maker in the GCC since 2005), all conceptualized, established and managed by Markaz. Markaz was listed on the Boursa Kuwait in 1997.

## The Conversation

### 3 strategies that might help

## Can Biden, McCarthy avert a calamitous debt default?

By Wendy K. Smith  
University of Delaware

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

The U.S. is teetering toward an unprecedented debt default that could come as soon as June 1, 2023.

In order for the U.S. to borrow more money, Congress needs to raise the debt ceiling - currently US\$31.4 trillion. President Joe Biden has refused to negotiate with House Republicans over spending, demanding instead that Congress pass a stand-alone bill to increase the debt limit. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy won a small victory on April 26 by narrowly passing a more complex bill with GOP support that would raise the debt ceiling but also slash spending and roll back Biden's policy agenda.

Biden recently invited congressional leaders, including GOP leader McCarthy, to the White House on May 9 to discuss the situation but insisted he isn't willing to negotiate.

Rather than leading the nation, Biden and McCarthy seem to be waging a partisan political war. Biden likely doesn't want to be seen as giving in to Republicans' demands and diminishing legislative wins for his liberal constituency. McCarthy, with his slim majority in the House, needs to appear even the most hard-line members of his party.

Having studied leadership for over 25 years, I would suggest that their leadership styles are polarized, oppositional, short-term and highly ineffective. Such combative leadership risks a debt default that

could send the U.S. into recession and potentially lead to a global economic and financial crisis.

While it may seem almost impossible in the current political climate, Biden and McCarthy have an opportunity to turn around this crisis and leave a positive and lasting legacy of courageous leadership. To do so, they need to put aside partisanship and adopt a different approach. Here are a few evidence-backed strategies to get them started.

Political leaders often risk being hijacked by members of their own party. McCarthy faces a direct threat by hard-line conservative members of his coalition.

For example, back in January, McCarthy agreed to let a single lawmaker force a vote for his ouster to win enough votes from ultraconservative lawmakers to become speaker. That and other concessions give the most extreme members of his party a lot of control over his agenda and limit McCarthy's ability to make a compromise deal with the president.

Biden, who just announced he's running for reelection in 2024, is betting his first-term accomplishments - such as unprecedented climate investments and student loan forgiveness - will help him keep the White House. Negotiating any of that away could cost him the support of key parts of his base.

My research partner Marianne W. Lewis and I label this kind of short-term, one-sided leadership as "either/or" thinking. That is, this approach assumes that leadership decisions are a zero-sum game - every inch you give is a loss to your side. We argue that this kind of leadership is limited at best and detrimental at worst.

# New Twitter 'regulations' expose election offices to spoof accounts

Ticking time bomb for disinformation

NEW YORK, May 7, (AP): Tracking down accurate information about Philadelphia's elections on Twitter used to be easy. The account for the city commissioners who run elections, @phillyvotes, was the only one carrying a blue check mark, a sign of authenticity.

But ever since the social media platform overhauled its verification service last month, the check mark has disappeared. That's made it harder to distinguish @phillyvotes from a list of random accounts not run by the elections office but with very similar names.

The election commission applied weeks ago for a gray check mark - Twitter's new symbol to help users identify official government accounts - but has yet to hear back from the Twitter, commission spokesman Nick Custodio said. It's unclear whether @phillyvotes is an eligible government account under Twitter's new rules.

That's troubling, Custodio said, because Pennsylvania has a primary election May 16 and the commission uses its account to share important information with voters in real time. If the account remains unverified, it will be easier to impersonate - and harder for voters to trust - heading into Election Day.

Impostor accounts on social media are among many concerns election security experts have heading into next year's presidential election. Experts have warned that foreign adversaries or others may try to influence the election, either through online disinformation campaigns or by hacking into election infrastructure.

## Buffett shares good news on profits, AI thoughts at 'meet'

OMAHA, Neb. May 7, (AP): Billionaire Warren Buffett said artificial intelligence may change the world but new technology won't take away opportunities for investors and he's confident America will continue to prosper despite its bitter political divisions.

Buffett and his partner Charlie Munger spent all day Saturday answering questions at the annual shareholders meeting for his Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate inside a packed arena in Omaha.

"New things coming along doesn't take away the opportunities. What gives you the opportunities is other people doing dumb things," said Buffett, who had a chance to try out ChatGPT with his friend Bill Gates a few months back.

"The problem now is that partisanship has moved more towards tribalism, and in tribalism you don't even hear the other side," he said.

Both Buffett and Munger said the U.S. will benefit from having an open trading relationship with China. Both countries should be careful not to exacerbate tensions - the stakes for the world are too high.

"Everything that increases the ten-



NetJets pilots and their families protest outside the Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting on Saturday, May 6, 2023, in Omaha, Neb. (AP)

sion between these two countries is stupid, stupid, stupid," Munger said.

The chance to listen to the legendary investors answer questions about business and life attracts people from all over the world to Buffett's hometown. Some shareholders feel a particular urgency to attend because the two men

are both in their 90s.

"Charlie Munger is 99. I just wanted to see him in person. It's on my bucket list," said Sheraton Wu, 40, from Vancouver. "I have to attend while I can."

Chloe Lin traveled from Singapore for what she called "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

disaster waiting to happen.

"The lack of clear, at-a-glance verification on Twitter is a ticking time bomb for disinformation," said Rachel Tobac, CEO of the cybersecurity company SocialProof Security. "That will confuse users - especially on important days like election days."

# Al Sayer unveils All New Toyota Urban Cruiser 2023 Premium five-seater SUV



Above and below: some photos from the event

'... unique combination of sophisticated design, complete comfort and practical features'

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: Toyota's vision of creating mobility for all is once again in the spotlight as Mohamed Naser Al (Sayer & Sons Est Co) launched the 2023 Toyota Urban Cruiser in Kuwait Market. Pairing outstanding fuel efficiency with a powerful, refined design, spacious interior and host of advanced features, the compact SUV is designed to meet the needs of Toyota's most discerning customers.

The launch event was attended by Mubarak Naser Al Sayer CEO, Bengt Schultz COO, Martin Aherne Business Director Toyota Sales Division and Top Management Team at ALSAYER, Theo Kruger General Manager Retail Sales, Savio Alvares Deputy General Manager 'ALSAYER AL OSTOUL' Fleet Sales, Bader Faisal Al Sayer Senior Marketing Manager Toyota Sales, Hamad Al Fouzan Senior Manager Product Planning, distinguished fleet customers, members from Toyota Sales team, in the presence of representatives from the press and media.

The 2023 Toyota Urban Cruiser has been engineered with the ever-changing needs and preferences of the company's global consumer base in mind. Boasting a sleek, crossover SUV-like design, the five-seater vehicle exudes style and sophistication and features a spacious and roomy cabin with ample space for both passengers and their luggage. Whether traveling solo or as a group, the new Urban Cruiser promises a comfortable and convenient ride that caters to requirements of today's active lifestyles.

Speaking at the event Bader Faisal Al Sayer said "Toyota has a full range of superior SUV vehicles in the world, and the legend Land Cruiser occupies the undisputed top. The group also includes Prado, Fortuner, and Rav4 vehicles ... which have proven their worth outside and inside the city. And now we are pleased to announce the joining of a new member to the group, the all-new Urban Cruiser... with an innovative look that enhanced the status



and strong image of Toyota SUVs".

According to Theo Kruger "Today we have a new SUV that appeals to the young generation packed with several impressive features. The line-up of Toyota vehicles couldn't have expanded in a better way. We are confident that you will thoroughly enjoy the driving experience with Urban Cruiser."

Savio Alvares said "Our SUV line up is growing. All new Urban Cruiser 2023 launch expands our range and are now able to cater to diverse requirements of our fleet customers. This gives us opportunities to cater to the new segment of customers which weren't targeted earlier. New Urban Cruiser is appealing to a rental company as well as corporate."

Kei Fujita, Chief Representative, Middle East and Central Asia Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, commented: "The Middle East launch of the new Urban Cruiser marks the arrival of yet another premium vehicle with all the advanced features and adaptability Toyota's customers have come to expect. The versatile Urban Cruiser can effectively cater to any number of unique driving experiences, all while guaranteeing dynamic performance and greater fuel efficiency thanks to the new Neo Drive powertrain. This eco-friendly powertrain



represents another important step on our journey toward carbon neutrality and making sustainable mobility solutions available to all, ensuring that no one is left behind."

Fujita added: "I would like to express my gratitude to our customers in the region, whose constant support serves as a powerful motivation to create ever-better cars."

The vehicle owes much of its smooth acceleration and dynamic on-road performance to the new Neo Drive Powertrain, which is the first of its kind in the Toyota lineup. It



greater maneuverability, all contribute to its outstanding handling, stability, and ride comfort. The vehicle boasts MacPherson strut-type front suspension, ensuring a smooth and secure ride with direct and linear driving dynamics. Meanwhile, the back is fitted with a torsion beam suspension system, which provides greater stability even when cruising at high speeds or taking sharp turns.

The 2023 Urban Cruiser's exterior is characterized by a unique crystal acrylic upper grille with premium chrome garnish. The resulting modern, advanced appearance is further enhanced by a wide lateral bar that flows from each DRL and crosses through the Toyota emblem. A wide, trapezoidal lower grille embodies the vehicle's toughness, while the side view reveals a distinctive character line runs from the front to the rear, expressing length and presence that is complemented by 17-inch alloy wheels. At the back, a chrome garnish connects the two combination lamps to create an advanced impression.

The new Urban Cruiser's spacious cabin is designed for greater comfort and convenience. An outstanding field of view also immensely enhances the driver and passenger experience. Its wide instrument panel, with soft padding present throughout

the interior, exudes refined elegance. The vehicle's head-up display, 4.2-inch color Thin Film Transistor (TFT) multi-information display, along with a tilt and telescopic steering wheel equipped with audio system and vehicle operation controls, all make for a seamless driving experience no matter where the road takes you.

Other impressive features include a dual-sliding panoramic roof, a 7-inch or 9-inch multimedia screen with seamless Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™ integration, and a wireless smartphone charging system. Additionally, the interior offers three USB ports, a six-speaker sound system, a powerful automatic air conditioning system with rear AC vents, and 60/40 split reclining rear seats.

As with any Toyota model, the new Urban Cruiser comes complete with a comprehensive array of safety features. These include six SRS airbags (front airbags for the driver and passenger, side airbags for the front seats, and side-curtain airbags for the front and rear seats), Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Traction Control (TRC), Hill-start Assist Control (HAC), Panoramic View Monitor (PVM), Rear Parking Sensors, Tire Pressure Warning System (TPWS), and many more.

A choice of seven exciting exterior hues adds to the new Urban Cruiser's striking visual appeal, including Pearl White, Metallic Silver, Metallic Grey, Pearl Red, Pearl Black, Brown Family Color, and Speedy Blue. Further personalization is made possible with the addition of several dual-tone variants - Pearl Black can be combined with Pearl White, Metallic Silver, Pearl Red or Speedy Blue. The vehicle's interior features an equally stylish color scheme, with a mono-tone Black and dual-tone Black and Bordeaux options. The new Toyota Urban Cruiser also comes with 17-inch wheels, further adding to its powerful, luxurious look.

**Burgan announces 'Kanz Account' draw winners**

Burgan Bank announced today the names of the Kanz account monthly draw winners, who will each take home a KD 2,000 cash-prize. All Kanz customers who maintain a minimum balance of KD 200 for at least one week before the draw date, are included in the draw, and their chances of winning increase with higher deposits.

- The 20 lucky winners are:
- Abdulaziz Saeed Alajmi
  - Abdulmohsen Hameed Altaieb
  - Arwa Ali Alghanim
  - Awrad Aziz Abdulredha
  - Fahad Waleed Almaraqi

- Ghazi Neama Ismail
- Haleemah Jassim Abul
- Minor/Hassan Kamel Alawadi
- Kutbuddin Fakhruddin Bankoda
- Loufy Louzy Gouda
- Mohammad Mabkhout Alajmi
- Mohammed Ashraf Ellahi
- Mutairan Hassan Ali
- Naiemah Salem Almulaifi
- Ola Abdulrahim Hafez
- Rawad Nofal Maklad
- Retaj Saqer Alhoushah
- Subba Reddy Kolavala
- Sukainah Hussien Dashti

**Tasnim Abbas Surti**  
In addition to the monthly draw of Kanz account, Burgan Bank also offers a semi-annual KD 500,000 prize and a mega annual prize of KD 1,500,000. Kanz Account is accessible to any individual and can be opened in Kuwaiti Dinar or in major currencies (USD, EURO, GDP) with a minimum KD 200 requirement for account opening.

More information on opening a Kanz account, the draws or any of the Bank's products and services, is available at any of Burgan Bank branches, through the Call Center at 1804080 and Burgan Bank website www.burgan.com.



Burgan Bank winners of 'Kanz Account' monthly draw

**Bank's work environment helps enhance employee productivity**

**ABK participates in IFC's corporate director training program**

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced its participation in the Corporate Directors training program organized by International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of World Bank Group, in collaboration with Tammayaz Foundation and Soroptimist International.

This initiative aligns with ABK's commitment to develop the skills and talents of its workforce, promote gender equality, and encourage sustainable practices across all sectors of society. The Bank emphasized that this investment in its team will have a substantial impact on the quality of the services provided to its diverse customer base, paving the way towards a brighter and more prosperous future.

Representing ABK in this three-month program was Afrah Al Arbash, General Manager of Human Resources, and Yasmine Salamah, General Manager of Multinational Corporates and Structured Finance.

The highly coveted program's extensive curriculum is designed to equip corporate directors with the necessary skills and tools to enhance their corporate governance

practices and tackle a wide range of related issues as well as improve their long-term planning capabilities. Leaders also gain new insights, knowledge, and strategies to elevate the organization's performance and growth.



Muqames

**Enhancing Capabilities**

Commenting on the program, Loai Muqames, ABK's Chief Executive Officer -Kuwait said, "ABK recognizes the increasing importance of Economic, Social and Governance (ESG) for the banking industry and the Bank's contributing role to economic strength and overall societal wellbeing. As such, it is of utmost importance for ABK to empower employees of all levels through training where the Bank acknowledges the importance of the role it plays in establishing more sustainable approaches. In addition, women's empowerment

remains a top priority for ABK, underpinned by becoming a signatory to the United Nations' Women's Empowerment Principles (WEP)."

The CEO continued that the training program provides participants with an in-depth understanding of board of directors' critical role in terms of disclosure, transparency, and the protection of shareholders' rights. Furthermore, it shares the best methods to tackle and face challenges in the banking industry as well as introduces participants to out-of-the-box thinking that promotes the development of new and innovative services and products.

The program goes beyond basic theories, offering a comprehensive and empirical outline of the key business governance dimensions that can be practically implemented. With a focus on corporate governance challenges, the program guides future board of directors on how to mitigate obstacles and elevate corporate governance practices to the next level.

Underlining the importance of training ABK staff, Muqames noted, "We are proud to invest in the development

of our workforce through specialized training programs that aim to unlock the full potential of our employees. ABK's aim is to empower employees by enhancing their capabilities to improve performance and increase productivity."

He continued, "As part of its strategic plans, the Bank is committed to fostering an inclusive work environment that promotes gender equality and women empowerment. Our efforts are focused on increasing the presence of women across the Bank and providing them with an ideal work environment that supports innovation in line with the latest developments in the banking industry."

Muqames affirmed, "ABK focuses on providing job opportunities that serve as a platform for the best talents to join the Bank. We participate in numerous job fairs throughout the year to introduce university graduates and Kuwaiti youth to the exciting opportunities available in the banking sector, which is a key pillar of the Kuwaiti economy."

**Ongoing Programs**  
ABK appreciates the importance of

staying up-to-date with the latest global changes at an economic, financial, and banking level. As a result, the Bank actively participates in numerous training programs in partnership with various local, regional, and international institutions. These programs help team members keep pace with the ever-changing landscape of the banking industry and maintain its leadership position in the market.

The Bank prioritizes compliance with corporate governance practices in accordance with international standards and has developed strategic plans to improve its capabilities in this area. Moreover, it encourages all its employees to share constructive ideas that contribute to the continuous development of their tasks and responsibilities to reach the highest levels of productivity. By adopting such an approach, ABK seeks to fulfill its responsibility towards employees by enabling them to enhance their performance and successfully prosper in their career journey.

**Facing Challenges**  
Muqames commented that programs like these go a long way in em-

powering women and enabling them to play leadership roles in the corporate environment. He mentioned that, in today's advanced world, training and learning is key to be on par with the world and further excel in our respective fields, especially within the banking industry.

He concluded, "ABK's participation in the Corporate Directors training program reflects the Bank's dedication to supporting its team members, especially female leaders, in their pursuit of knowledge and professional development. This program sheds light on the role of corporate board of directors and how to effectively solve problems and overcome challenges in the ever-evolving banking industry. This experience will be of immense value for the Bank to effectively function in the face of new challenges to ensure continued success in our journey to benefit all stakeholders."

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk\_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.

**Bank empowers national talents**

**Al-Wazzan appointed as head of strategic planning and follow-up unit at Gulf Bank**

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: Gulf Bank has appointed Meshal Al-Wazzan as Head of the Strategic Planning and Follow-Up Unit, following the approval from the Central Bank of Kuwait. This comes as part of the Bank's policy to enable national talents to advance and obtain leadership positions, with the aim of contributing towards the growth and prosperity of the Bank's business, and to empower national talents, which is an essential part of Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy.

Al-Wazzan will be given the responsibility of developing and implementing the Bank's long-term strategy, in addition to working with various sectors to develop their annual plans and handle several strategic projects.

It is worth mentioning that Gulf Bank established the unit independently, in line with the recommendations issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait in 2020, in order to ensure that the Kuwaiti banking sector is well equipped and prepared to face any challenges that may be imposed by global economic conditions in the future. The unit provides the Bank with the necessary capabilities and tools to predict any internal and external challenges that may arise as a result of any developments in the global economy.



Al-Wazzan

**Leadership**

Meshal Al-Wazzan has 17 years of experience in the banking industry and held many leadership and executive positions within the bank and abroad. He began his career at Wafra Financial Consulting Company in New York, and then worked and progressed in several departments in the Corporate Banking Group at Gulf Bank from 2006 to 2017. Al-Wazzan then resumed to work at the Bank from 2019 to 2022, before being assigned as Acting Head of Strategic Planning Unit. Additionally, Al-Wazzan was the Executive Vice Chairman at The National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development and the Executive Director at the Competition Protection Agency.

Academically, Al-Wazzan holds

**Kuwait Finance House reveals winners of the 'Al-Rabeh' draw**

Ali winner of KD 25,000

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AlRabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each for the 13th and 14th week of 2023, additionally, KFH announced Ali Al-Rashidi as the monthly winner of 1 kilo Gram of KFH Gold for the month of March 2023 and the bank also announced Amgad Ali as the winner of the 1st quarter draw of a prize worth 25,000 KD.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Tareq Al-Mas, Nourah Al-Farhan, Mohammad Ali, Noura Al-Refai, Mohammad Al-Barazi, Meshal Ameen, Hala Mourad, Muna Khaleefah, Musthafa Hamza, Faisal Al-Mutairi, Nourah Naser, Ahmad Al-Hatiani, Nourah Al-Jameeli, Maha Al-Azmi, Ibraheem El-habibi, Abdullah Al-Azemi, Abdulrahman Ali, Rana Rustom, Suhailah Al-Khaled, Sayer Al-Azmaa.

The AlRabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers' aspirations, enhance the Bank's leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The Al-Rabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh

account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided that the transfer of salary to Al-Rabeh account is constant.

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of K.D 1,500 for 10 winners each, 1 KG of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and K.D 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

KFH is keen to further meet customers' requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The Bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology.



KFH campaign photo

an MBA from IE Business School in Madrid, and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, with a specialization in Information Systems and E-Commerce, from the Univer-

sity of Toledo in Ohio. He also holds several courses in leadership and strategy from Harvard University and University of Chicago Booth School of Business.



Photos from the event.



**Discounted garments, footwear**

**Lulu Hypermarket launches 'exciting' summer fashion promotion in Kuwait**

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait, one of the leading retail chains in the country, has launched its Summer Fashion promotion, featuring discounted garments and footwear from top fashion brands. The promotion, which will run from May 6th to May 16th, 2023, is available at all Lulu Hypermarket outlets in Kuwait, both online and offline.

The promotion was launched on May 6th, 2023, at the Lulu Hypermarket Alrai outlet, in the presence of major fashionistas from the town. The launch event also featured a kids' fashion show with a summer theme, with over 100 kids participating. All participants

received consolation prizes, while the first, second, and third prize winners received valuable gift prizes.

Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait is proud to partner with own top fashion brands, including Debacker, Eten, Marco Doneiteli, Cortigiani, and Tom Smith, to offer customers a wide range of summer garments and footwear.

**Purchase**

The promotion offers customers the chance to purchase high-quality fashion items at discounted prices, making it the perfect opportunity to update their summer wardrobe.

The promotion also featured

fashionistas who provided customers with trial demos of summer garments, as well as tips and advice on how to style them. Fashion vloggers were also present to explain Lulu Hypermarket's latest trends and fashions to customers, which they shared on their social media platforms.

Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait is committed to providing its customers with the best possible shopping experience, and the Summer Fashion promotion is a testament to that commitment. Customers can take advantage of the exciting offers and discounts, both in-store and online, to make the most of the summer fashion season.

**Mega promotion campaign launched**

**Al Muzaini Exchange unveils Kuwait Women's cricket training kit**

KUWAIT CITY, May 7: Al Muzaini Exchange Company, the number one exchange company in Kuwait and the proud sponsors of Kuwait Cricket joined the Kuwait Women's cricket team and the Management of Kuwait Cricket for the unveiling of the Women's training jersey with the Al Muzaini logo at the front of the kit.

The event was held in Sulabiya cricket ground. Members of the Women's cricket team were presented with their new training kits by Mr Guruprasad Kadri, the Operations manager at Al Muzaini, Mr Trevin Cutinho, the Digital Market-

ing officer at Al Muzaini and Mr Sajid Ashraf, Director General of

the Kuwait Cricket Council Board. The team were provided with words

of support and encouragement from the guest panel as the names of the

20-women Kuwait National Women's Cricket Team shortlist was announced.

The players were excited to receive the kits and expressed their gratitude towards Al Muzaini for the support and confidence that the company has placed in supporting women's cricket and for being the first company to sponsor women's cricket in Kuwait.

Al Muzaini is extremely proud to be a part of the growth of women's cricket in Kuwait and encourages the young girls to actively take up the sport and conquer all milestones and break all records.

Al Muzaini also recently announced their Mega Promotion Campaign 2023. Transfer money through Al Muzaini for a chance to win a BMW X3 2023 and incredible prizes worth over \$130,000. Send money through Al Muzaini's branches, self-service kiosks, online or the mobile app and use any of their services for a chance to win every day. Transferring through the app multiplies your chances of winning. The campaign lasts from 23rd March to 11th June.

Al Muzaini, always near you!



Kuwait Cricket Women's team with officials.

The Conversation

Reconstructing ancient bacterial genomes can revive unknown molecules

# Fossil microbes offer potential source for new drugs

By Christina Warinner, Harvard University; Alexander Hübner, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, and Pierre Stallforth, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

Microorganisms - in particular bacteria - are skillful chemists that can produce an impressive diversity of chemical compounds known as natural products. These metabolites provide the microbes major evolutionary advantages, such as allowing them to interact with one another or their environment and helping defend against different threats. Because of the diverse functions bacterial natural products have, many have been used as medical treatments such as antibiotics and anti-cancer drugs.

The microbial species alive today represent only a tiny fraction of the vast diversity of microbes that have inhabited Earth over the past 3 billion years. Exploring this microbial past presents exciting opportunities to recover some of their lost chemistry.

Directly studying these metabolites in archaeological samples is virtually impossible because of their poor preservation over time. However, reconstructing them using the genetic blueprints of long-dead microbes could provide a path forward.

**Natural**

The cellular machinery producing bacterial natural products is encoded in genes that are typically in close proximity to one another, forming what are called biosynthetic gene clusters. Such genes are difficult to detect and reconstruct from ancient DNA because very old genetic material breaks down over time, fragmenting into thousands or even millions of pieces. The end result is numerous tiny DNA fragments less than 50 nucleotides long all mixed together like a jumbled jigsaw puzzle.

We sequenced billions of such ancient DNA fragments, then improved a bioinformatic process called de novo assembly to digitally order the ancient DNA fragments in stretches of up to 100,000 nucleotides long - a 2,000-fold improvement. This process allowed us to identify not only what genes were present, but also their order in the genome and the ways they differ from bacterial genes known today - key information to uncovering their evolutionary history and function.

This method allowed us to take an unprecedented look at the genomes of microbes living up to 100,000 years ago, including species not known to exist today. Our findings push back the previously oldest

reconstructed microbial genomes by more than 90,000 years.

In the microbial genomes we reconstructed from DNA extracted from ancient tooth tartar, we found a gene cluster that was shared by a high proportion of Neanderthals and anatomically modern humans living during the Middle and Upper Paleolithic that lasted from 300,000 to 12,000 years ago. This cluster bore the molecular hallmarks of very ancient DNA and belonged to the bacterial genus *Chlorobium*, a group of green sulfur bacteria capable of photosynthesis.

We inserted a synthetic version of this gene cluster into a "modern" bac-

terium called *Pseudomonas protegens* so it could produce the chemical compounds encoded in the ancient genes. Using this method, we were able to isolate two previously unknown compounds we named paleofuran A and B and determine their chemical structure. Resynthesizing these molecules in the lab from scratch confirmed their structure and allowed us to produce larger quantities for further analysis.

**Samples**

By reconstructing these ancient compounds, our findings highlight how archaeological samples could serve as new sources of natural products.

Microbes are constantly evolving and adapting to their surrounding environment. Because the environments they inhabit today differ from those of their ancestors, microbes today likely produce different natural products than ancient microbes from tens of thousands of years ago.

As recently as 25,000 to 10,000 years ago, the Earth underwent a major climate shift as it transitioned from the colder and more volatile Pleistocene Epoch to the warmer and more temperate Holocene Epoch. Human lifestyles also dramatically changed over this transition as people began living outside of caves and increasingly experimented with food production. These changes brought them into contact with different microbes through agriculture, animal husbandry and their new built environments. Studying Pleistocene-era bacteria may yield insights into bacterial species and biosynthetic genes no longer associated with humans today, and perhaps even microbes that have gone extinct.

While the amount of data collected by scientists on biological organisms has exponentially increased over the past few decades, the number of new antibiotics has stagnated. This is particularly problematic when bacteria are able to evade existing antibiotic treatments faster than researchers can develop new ones.

By reconstructing microbial genomes from archaeological samples, scientists can tap into the hidden diversity of natural products that would have otherwise been lost over time, increasing the number of potential sources from which they can discover new drugs.

Our study has shown that it is possible to access natural products from the past. To tap into the vast diversity of chemical compounds encoded in ancient DNA, we now need to streamline our methodology to be less labor-intensive.

We are currently optimizing and automating our process to identify biosynthetic genes in ancient DNA more quickly and reliably. We are also implementing robotic liquid handling systems to complete the time-consuming pipetting and bacterial cultivation steps in our methods. Our goal is to scale up the process to be able to translate a vast amount of data on ancient microbes into the discovery of new therapeutic agents.

Although we can recreate ancient molecules, their biological and ecological roles are difficult to decipher. Since the bacteria that originally produced these compounds no longer exist, we cannot culture or genetically manipulate them. Further study will need to rely on similar bacteria that can be found today. Whether or not the functions of these compounds have remained the same in the modern relatives of ancient microbes remains to be tested. Although the original functions of these compounds for ancient microbes may be unknown, they still have the potential to be repurposed to treat modern diseases. (AP)

## Duo awarded Ross Prize for discovering the genetic cause of fatty liver disease

MANHASSET, NY, May 7: The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research has selected two scientists from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Helen H. Hobbs, MD, and Jonathan C. Cohen, PhD, to receive the 10th annual Ross Prize in Molecular Medicine for groundbreaking research in dyslipidemias and metabolic liver disease. The duo was the first to discover the genetic cause of fatty liver disease in humans and their ongoing work has led to a new class of cholesterol-lowering drugs.

The Ross Prize is made possible by the generosity of Feinstein Institutes board vice chairman Jack Ross and his wife, Robin, senior principal gifts officer at the Northwell Health Foundation. Established in 2013, the Ross Prize is awarded annually through the Feinstein Institutes' peer-reviewed, open-access journal. The prize includes a \$50,000 award for each recipient and is given to investigators whose research shows high potential for transforming how we treat and cure disease.

"Drs. Hobbs and Cohen identified genetic mutations that form the basis of important new therapies to reduce cholesterol levels and prevent cardiovascular disease," said Kevin J. Tracey, MD, president and CEO of the Feinstein Institutes, and Karches Family Distinguished Chair in Medical Research and editor emeritus of . "This year's Ross Prize recipients are pioneering scientists who persisted until their discovery was translated into clinical use."

Drs. Hobbs and Cohen, both members of the National Academy of Sciences, discovered that mutations in a gene called PCSK9 were associated with reduced plasma levels of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol and decreased risk of heart disease in a large prospective study. The Hobbs-Cohen laboratory continues to use human genetics to identify new therapeutic targets for treating cardiovascular and metabolic disorders and define key pathways in lipid metabolism.

**Development**

"Gene identification is the starting point for any basic research and future therapy development," said Dr. Hobbs, Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, director of the Eugene McDermott Center for Human Growth, and professor of Internal Medicine and Molecular Genetics, who holds the Dallas Heart Ball Chair in Cardiology Research, Philip O'Bryan Montgomery Jr., MD, Distinguished Chair in Developmental Biology and Eugene McDermott Distinguished Chair for the Study of Human Growth and Development. "With the support of our colleagues and the Ross Prize, we can continue our work to create even more effective translational treatments."

In the United States, at least 30 percent of Americans today have non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. And there may be as many as 4.5 million Americans with advanced-stage fatty liver

Help find new class of cholesterol drugs

'Providing high quality care to patients'

## Iterative partners with Allied Digestive Health for optimization of clinical trial

CAMBRIDGE, Mass, May 7: Iterative Health, a pioneer in precision-medicine technologies for gastroenterology, announced that it has partnered with Allied Digestive Health (ADH), a leading gastroenterology practice, to bring Clinical Trial Optimization to ADH's research centers across New Jersey and New York to aid in the recruitment of patients for inflammatory bowel disease clinical trials.

Allied Digestive Health is one of the largest integrated networks of gastroenterology care centers in the nation with over 200 providers and 60 locations throughout New Jersey and New York. Allied Digestive Health's mission to empower gastroenterologists to deliver compassionate, high quality, and comprehensive care through an unparalleled patient experience directly aligns with Iterative Health's mission to democratize access to quality gastrointestinal (GI) care through the application of computer vision technology.

"We are excited to partner with Iterative Health given our shared goal of providing high quality care to patients with GI conditions like inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)," says Dr. Nadeem Baig, Chief Medical Officer at ADH. "With Iterative Health's Clinical Trial Optimization technology, our recruitment efforts will reach more individuals, be more streamlined, and help accelerate the drug development process. For diseases such as IBD, drug develop-

ment is often too slow, so by speeding up the timeline of clinical trials we're able to bring the next generation of novel therapeutics to patients who need them most."

This partnership will allow ADH physicians to leverage Iterative Health's AI-based technology and support to better standardize the endoscopic scoring process during recruitment and identify likely eligible patients to enroll in IBD clinical trials. This partnership combines ADH's strength in providing the highest level of care in GI and Iterative Health's strength in developing best in class AI and computer vision solutions for IBD, including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

**Standard**

"Iterative Health's technology supports our vision to elevate the standard of care in gastroenterology across the nation," says Sap Sinha, Chief Operating Officer of Allied Digestive Health. "This partnership unites both of our strengths so that we can have a measurable clinical impact for IBD patients."

"We're thrilled to collaborate with an organization that shares our mission of democratizing access to quality GI care," says Sahir Raouf, VP of Business Development at Iterative Health. "We're excited to scale within ADH's growing footprint and further improve patient access to novel therapeutics. Our partnership lays the foundation for continued innovation in GI as Iterative Health

strengthens its comprehensive suite of AI enabled tools to bring precision medicine to the GI practice."

Iterative Health is pioneering the use of artificial intelligence-based precision medicine in gastroenterology (GI), with the aim of helping to optimize clinical trials investigating treatment of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and improving the accuracy of colorectal cancer screenings. We use advanced machine learning and computer vision to interpret endoscopic images along with other types of data, helping clinicians to better assess patients with potential GI problems. This gives practitioners enhanced capabilities in the detection, annotation, disease scoring and treatment of GI related diseases.

The company is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with offices across the United States.

Allied Digestive Health is a leading gastroenterology and hepatology practice with 60+ locations throughout New Jersey and New York, specializing in colon cancer screening, and the treatment of Celiac Disease, GERD, and IBD. Allied Digestive Health is committed to empowering Gastroenterologists to deliver compassionate, high-quality, and comprehensive care through an unparalleled patient experience. Their team, comprised of gastroenterologists, pathologists, anesthesiologists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants work together to uphold the highest standards of care.

share their research include Dr. Tracey, along with: "Robin and I established the Ross Prize with the vision of pushing research forward into life-changing medical treatments," said Jack Ross. "We are honored to support the incredible scientific talent the prize has recognized over the past ten years."

Past recipients of the Ross Prize are: PhD, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine adjunct professor and senior vice president at BioNTech; MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine Roberts Family Professor of Vaccine Research; Adrian R. Krainer, PhD, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory professor; Daniel Kastner, MD, PhD, the National Institutes of Health's National Human Genome Research Institute scientific director; Huda Y. Zoghbi, MD, professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Molecular and Human Genetics, Neurology and Neuroscience at Baylor College of Medicine;

Jeffrey V. Ravetch, MD, PhD, the Theresa and Eugene M. Lang Professor and head of the Leonard Wagner Laboratory of Molecular Genetics and Immunology at The Rockefeller University; Charles N. Serhan, PhD, DSc, director of the Center for Experimental Therapeutics and Reperfusion Injury at Brigham and Women's Hospital; the Simon Gelman Professor of Anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School and professor at Harvard School of Dental Medicine; Lewis C. Cantley, PhD, the Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medical College and New York-Presbyterian Hospital; John J. O'Shea, MD, scientific director at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; and Dan R. Littman, MD, PhD, the Helen L. and Martin S. Kimmel Professor of Molecular Immunology in the Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine at New York University School of Medicine.

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# Oprah tells class of 2023 to follow 'still, small voice'

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 7. (AP) — Oprah Winfrey delighted graduates at her alma mater Tennessee State University on Saturday, telling the story of how she fell one credit short of graduating as she launched the media career that would make her a household name.

Giving the commencement address at the historically Black university, Winfrey recalled that she was living with her father in East Nashville while attending college, helping out in his store, and presenting the weekend news at a Black radio station. That's where the lead anchor of the local CBS television affiliate heard her voice. He called her at school to ask if she wanted a job.

"I said, 'No sir. TV? Not really, sir, because my father says I have to finish school, and school is just too important,'" Winfrey recalled.

She then went back to class and related the conversation to her scene design professor who "looked at me as if I didn't have the brains that God gave lettuce," Winfrey said.

He spoke to her father, and Winfrey took the job. Beginning the second semester of her sophomore year, Winfrey arranged to finish her classes by 2:00 p.m. so she could work at the television station from 2:30 to 10:30 and be home by her father's 11:00 p.m. curfew.

By the end of her senior year in 1975, Winfrey's career was in full swing. So she wasn't terribly distressed to learn that she was one credit short and would not be able to graduate. But her father would not let go of the topic, asking her for years, "'When you going to get that degree?'" she said.

Finally in 1988, she was allowed to write a paper and submit some of her shows for the final credit.

"So I got my degree from Tennessee State, right around the time I got my third Emmy," Winfrey said.

Her success in life has come from God's grace and from listening to what she called the "still, small voice" inside while filtering out the noise of the world. That way "you begin to know your own heart and figure out what matters most," Winfrey said. "Every right move I've made has come from listening deeply and following that still, small voice."

Winfrey told the class of 2023 they are living in a difficult time in many ways.

## Special

"Unfortunately, you are going to encounter people who insist that it's not actually possible to make any difference," she said. But she held up the examples of Tennessee state Reps. Justin Jones and Justin Pearson who are "using their lives to prove the cynics wrong."

The Republican majority expelled the two young Black Democratic lawmakers last month after they breached decorum by protesting for stricter gun laws from the House floor. They were reinstated on an interim basis by their local city councils within days and now face a special election to regain their seats.

The United States is "not a finished product," she said. "Anything is possible. The wheels are still in spin. Saints walk among us. And as

Nelson Mandela so brilliantly demonstrated, it's better to be hopeful than fearful, if for no other reason than that hope brings us one step closer to joy."

## Also:

**NEW YORK:** The next novel from Pulitzer Prize winner **Michael Cunningham**, his first in a decade, is a family saga set in New York City before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Random House announced Monday that "Day" will be published in January. The novel takes place on three separate days in April, one each in the years 2019-2021.

"I've definitely had moments over the last 10 years when I thought, well, if the world is in this kind of shape, who needs a novel?" Cunningham said in a statement. "But maybe it's during hard times that the world needs novels more than ever."

The author calls the new book "a story about people dealing with something terrible, and it's about survival, but more centrally it's a story about love. I'm deeply interested in love - a sense of happiness, of living the life that one has hoped to live. And love is most interesting when it has survived terrible tests."

Cunningham's previous novels, published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, include "Specimen Days," "By Nightfall" and "The Hours," which won the Pulitzer for fiction in 1999 and was adapted into an Oscar winning movie of the same name.

## People

## Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Jennifer Lawrence, (left), and Andrew Barth Feldman in a scene from 'No Hard Feelings.' (AP)

## Film

'No Hard Feelings' promises communal laughter

# A comedy tailor made for Lawrence

LAS VEGAS, May 7, (AP) — Jennifer Lawrence has wanted to do a big comedy for years. She has always been funny and vibrant in her television appearances. And while she has brought humor and physical comedy to many of her roles for David O. Russell and others, she also hasn't exactly gotten the big, broad "Dumb and Dumber" or "Anchorman" experience, to cite some of her favorites (or at least the ones she's memorized).

That changes this summer with "No Hard Feelings" (in theaters June 23), a classic, raunchy R-rated comedy that was tailor made for her.

"I've always wanted to do a comedy. And I've read a lot of them," Lawrence told The Associated Press last week in Las Vegas. "I just didn't read anything that was funny enough."

"No Hard Feelings" was inspired by a real Craigslist ad posted by parents who were seeking a woman to "date" their son to bring him out of his shell the summer before he went to college. There are debates over just how real the "real ad" was, but thinking about the woman who might answer an ad like that was a premise funny enough to catch the attention of several producers and writer-director Gene Stupnitsky.

Stupnitsky, an Emmy-nominated alum of "The Office" who also directed and co-wrote the 2019 hit "Good Boys," knew just who to take it to. He told Lawrence about the idea one night at dinner with friends in which, he estimated, they had had about "eight or nine drinks between us."

The two met over a decade ago, through a mutual friend, at Medieval Times of all places. Lawrence, he remembered, was dressed in a full Wizard costume. And they soon became actual friends. He even introduced Lawrence to her husband.

"I owed him one," Lawrence said. "That's why I did this film."

Stupnitsky, sitting next to Lawrence, added: "There's probably some truth to that."

With Lawrence attached to star and produce, the movie became a hot commodity, with streaming services and studios vying for the rights to make it. Ultimately, they went with Sony and a traditional theatrical release.

"The reason I wrote this movie for her is because I knew how funny she was and I wanted everyone else to know. I mean, people know she's funny but they wanted her in a comedy. I thought, yes I know how to do this. I know how to write her voice," Stupnitsky said. "I remember I told her, 'I really want you to experience a feeling of sitting in a theater with hundreds of people laughing.' She's had many, many experiences in film, but she hasn't quite had this one."

In "No Hard Feelings," Lawrence's character Maddie is having a rough stretch with money. As an Uber driver without a car she's in a pressing bind. So when she finds this ad with the promise of a Buick Regal as payment, she takes the bait.

## Fantasy

In a clip that Sony debuted for theater owners at the CinemaCon convention last week, Maddie meets 19-year-old Percy (Andrew Barth Feldman) for the first time wearing a slim, hot pink mini dress and high heels and acting overtly flirty and available.

"She's dressed like what she thinks is a 19-year-old's idea of a fantasy. And she's wrong," Stupnitsky said. "He's like the one kid who she can't seduce."

The situation escalates from there as she tries to give him a ride home. He thinks he's being abducted and, as anyone who has watched the red-band trailer knows, it ends with her getting pepper sprayed. But there's a sweet core to the film too.

"He is longing for a connection, which is what she needs as well but doesn't know it yet," Stupnitsky said. "She wants to get the car and move on

with her life. But he's forcing her to kind of take things slow and get to know him and be intimate, in a way, with him in a platonic sort of way."

The experience, Lawrence said, was a blast, helped by her connection with her younger co-star.

"We just laughed all day long," she said. "Sometimes I would get in bed after work and just like, giggle before going to sleep, just thinking about the day. I was also sad for making it because I was like, 'God, I'm just I'm not going to have one of these again. This is this is so singular.'"

As a producer on the film, Lawrence has already gotten to watch it with an audience and experience that big, communal laughter that Stupnitsky promised.

"I went to a test screening and sat in back," she said. "It was pretty extraordinary."

Every film, she knows, is a gamble but she's pretty confident about "No Hard Feelings."

"You really never know. You might think audiences want this and they don't. And I've certainly had my experiences with that," she said. "It's a mix of instinct and looking at the information that you have. I knew what we had was the funniest movie that anybody would have ever seen - I have no doubts about that-and I knew that Gene was the one that could do it."

It's also Lawrence's first major theatrical release in a few years, since the 2019 X-Men movie "Dark Phoenix." Her recent films have been primarily streaming releases with Netflix's "Don't Look Up" and Apple's "Causeway," which she also produced.

"I think audiences are really going to remember why they love her," Stupnitsky said.

Lawrence laughed: "I look much better 12 feet high."

**MIAMI:** The former executive director of the Miss Florida pageant has been sentenced to more than a year in federal prison for stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from the organization.

**Mary Wickersham**, 77, was sentenced last Friday in Miami federal court, according to court records. Earlier this year, she pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud, while six other counts were dropped. In addition to prison time, Wickersham, who is also known as **Mary Sullivan**, must pay \$243,000 in restitution.

Wickersham began serving as the executive director of the Miss Florida Scholarship Program in 2002. The program offers educational and financial assistance to young women across the state, and each year the state winner goes on to compete in the Miss America pageant, which Florida has won twice.

According to a criminal complaint, Wickersham formed a Florida corporation named Miss Florida LLC in 2011 and used it to open a bank account in the same name. Without the knowledge or consent of the Miss Florida Scholarship Program, prosecutors said Wickersham redirected money to the Miss Florida LLC bank account, which she controlled.

Wickersham used her position to solicit donations from the program's recurring business sponsors and donors, claiming the money would be used to fund scholarships for the contestants. Investigators said Wickersham actually used the money for her own personal use and gain. (AP)

**MADRID:** Italian author and philosopher **Nuccio Ordine** has won Spain's Princess of Asturias award for communication and humanities for 2023.

Prize organizers said that Ordine, who teaches literature at Calabria University, was chosen for "his defense of the humanities and his commitment to education and the values rooted in the most universal of European thought."

Ordine, 64, is recognized as one of the world's leading experts on Italian Renaissance studies and a specialist in the work of 16th century Italian philosopher **Giordano Bruno**.

The award organizers said Ordine "advocates instilling in students the pleasure of knowledge

and the curiosity to know things."

An honorary doctor and honorary member of numerous universities and cultural institutes, Ordine has written many academic books, most notably "Giordano Bruno and the Philosophy of the Ass" in 1987.

He also has published several more popular works, including the bestseller "The Usefulness of the



Michnik



Ordine

Useless," in 2013.

The 50,000-euro (\$53,000) award is one of eight prizes, including in the arts, social sciences, and sports, handed out annually by a foundation named for Spanish **Crown Princess Leonor**. They are presented each fall by the princess in the northern city of **Oviedo**.

The communication and humanities award was won last year by **Adam Michnik**, the former Polish dissident and human rights activist who is editor-in-chief of one of Eastern Europe's most popular newspapers. (AP)

**AKRON, Ohio:** When **Julia** and

**Robert Jones** discovered that a judge from the Akron Municipal Court in **Ohio** would be officiating "Star Wars"-themed weddings on May the Fourth, the couple felt the Force calling them to commit to the ceremony.

"There was no other right decision, that was it," **Julia Jones** said. (AP)

# Features

## People &amp; Places

## Obits

## Strachwitz dies

Public TV advocate  
Minow dead aged 97

CHICAGO, May 7, (AP) — **Newton N. Minow**, who as Federal Communications Commission chief in the early 1960s famously proclaimed that network television was a "vast wasteland," died Saturday. He was 97.

Minow, who received a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016, died Saturday at home, surrounded by loved ones, said his daughter, Nell Minow.

"He wanted to be at home," she told The Associated Press. "He had a good life."

Though Minow remained in the FCC post just two years, he left a permanent stamp on the broadcasting industry through government steps to foster satellite communications, the passage of a law mandating UHF reception on TV sets and his outspoken advocacy for quality in television.

"My faith is in the belief that this country needs and can support many voices of television - and that the more voices we hear, the better, the richer, the freer we shall be," Minow once said. "After all, the airways belong to the people."

Minow was appointed as FCC chief by President John F. Kennedy in early 1961. He had initially come to know the Kennedys in the 1950s as an aide to Illinois Gov. Adlai Stevenson, the Democrats' presidential nominee in 1952 and 1956.

Minow laid down his famous challenge to TV executives on May 9, 1961, in a speech to the National Association of Broadcasters, urging them to sit down and watch their station for a full day, "without a book, magazine, newspaper, profit-and-loss sheet or rating book to distract you."

"I can assure you that you will observe a vast wasteland," he told them. "You will see a procession of game shows, formula comedies about totally unbelievable families, blood and thunder, mayhem, violence, sadism, murder, Western bad men, Western good men, private eyes, gangsters, more violence and cartoons. And, endlessly, commercials - many screaming, cajoling and offending."

## Channels

As he spoke, the three networks were just about all most viewers had to choose from. Pay television was barely in the planning stage, PBS and "Sesame Street" were several years away, and HBO and niche channels such as Animal Planet were far in the future.

The speech caused a sensation. "Vast wasteland" became a catch phrase. Jimmy Durante opened an NBC special by saying, "Da next hour will be dedicated to upliftin' da quality of television. ... At least, Newt, we're tryin'."

Minow became the first government official to get a George Foster Peabody award for excellence in broadcasting. The New York Times critic Jack Gould (himself a Peabody winner) wrote, "At long last there is a man in Washington who proposes to champion the interests of the public in TV matters and is not timid about ruffling the industry's most august feathers. Tonight some broadcasters were trying to find dark explanations for Mr. Minow's attitude. In this matter the viewer possibly can be a little helpful; Mr. Minow was been watching television."

CBS President Frank Stanton strongly disagreed, calling Minow's comments a "sensationalized and oversimplified approach" that could lead to ill-advised reforms "on the ground that any change is a change for the better."

For the criticism over his speech, Minow said he didn't support censorship, preferring exhortation and measures to broaden public choices. But he also said a broadcasting license was "an enormous gift" from the government that brought with it a responsibility to the public.

His daughter, Nell Minow, told The Associated Press in 2011 that her father loved television and wished he would have been remembered for championing the public interest in television programming, rather than just a few words in his much broader speech.

"His No. 1 goal was to give people choice," she said.

Among the new laws during his tenure were the All-Channel Receiver Act of 1962, that required that TV sets pick up UHF as well as VHF broadcasts, which opened up TV channels numbered above 13 for widespread viewing. Congress also passed a bill that provided funds for educational television, and measures to foster communications satellites.

**Chris Strachwitz**, a producer, musicologist and one-man preservation society whose Arhoolie Records released thousands of songs by regional performers and comprised an extraordinary American archive that became known and loved worldwide, has died. He was 91.

Strachwitz, recipient in 2016 of a Grammy Trustee Award, passed away Friday from complications with congestive heart failure at an assisted living facility in the San Francisco Bay Area's Marin County, the Arhoolie Foundation said Saturday.

Admired by **Bob Dylan**, **Bonnie Raitt** and many others, Strachwitz was an unlikely champion of the American vernacular - a native German born into privilege who fell deeply for his adopted country's music and was among the most intrepid field recorders to emerge after **Alan Lomax**.

He founded Arhoolie in 1960 and over the following decades traveled to **Mississippi**, **Texas** and **Louisiana** among other states on a mission that rarely relented: taping little-known artists in their home environments, be it a dance hall, a front porch, a beer joint, a backyard.

"My stuff isn't produced. I just catch it as it is," he explained in the 2014 documentary "This Ain't No Mouse Music."

The name Arhoolie, suggested by fellow musicologist **Mack McCormick**, is allegedly a regional expression for field holler.

**Ry Cooder** would call him "El Fanatico," the kind of true believer for whom just the rumor of a musician worth hearing would inspire him to get on a bus and ride hundreds of miles - like the time he sought out bluesman Lightnin' Hopkins in **Houston**. Strachwitz amassed a vast catalog of blues, Tejano, folk, jazz, gospel and Zydeco, with Grammy winners **Flaco Jimenez** and **Clifton Chenier** among those who later attracted wider followings. An Arhoolie 50-year anniversary box set featured **Maria Muldaur**, **Taj Mahal**, **Savoy Family Band** and **Cooder**, who would cite the Arhoolie release "Mississippi's **Big Joe Williams** and His Nine-String Guitar" as an early inspiration.



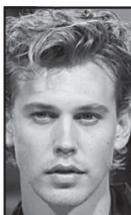
Taylor Swift performs during 'The Eras Tour' on Friday, May 5, at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)



Phoebe Bridgers performs as the opening act for Taylor Swift's 'The Eras Tour' on Friday, May 5, at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)



Barrymore



Butler

## Variety

**NEW YORK:** The first big live awards show to air during the current screenwriters' strike has retreated to a pre-taped event as the MTV Movie & TV Awards tries to chart a celebratory course through a turbulent **Hollywood**.

The Sunday show already had lost its host, **Drew Barrymore**, who dropped out in solidarity with the writers and the show's red carpet was rolled up. The Writers Guild still promised to picket, meaning stars and presenters would have to walk past demonstrating writers to get into the venue. Late Saturday, MTV scrapped the live event entirely.

"We're pivoting away from a live event that still enables us to produce a memorable night full of exclusive sneak peaks, irreverent categories our audience has come to expect, and countless moments that will both surprise and delight," said **Bruce Gillmer**, an MTV executive producer, in a statement.

The best movie category pits "Avatar: The Way of Water," "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," "Elvis," "Nope," "Scream VI," "Smile" and "Top Gun: Maverick."

The best TV shows nominated are: "Stranger Things," "The Last of Us," "The White Lotus," "Wednesday," "Wolf Pack," "Yellowstone" and "Yellowjackets."

One thing is already clear: **Jennifer Coolidge** is a winner. Coolidge - who is up for two competitive awards - is also going to receive the Comedic Genius Award.

Coolidge has shot to the A-list with winning turns in both seasons of "The White Lotus" after years of comedic work in such films as "Best in Show," "Legally Blonde" and "American Pie." She becomes the sixth person to get the award, which was last presented to Jack Black in 2022.

Coolidge is also up for two honors Sunday - most frightened performance for "Shotgun Wedding" and best comedic performance for "The White Lotus."

In individual categories, best performance in a movie nominees are: **Austin Butler**, "Elvis;" **Florence Pugh**, "Don't Worry Darling;" **KeKe Palmer**, "Nope;" **Michael B. Jordan**, "Creed III;" and **Tom Cruise**, "Top Gun: Maverick."

And best performance in a TV show pits **Aubrey Plaza**, "The White Lotus;" **Christina Ricci**, "Yellowjackets;" **Jenna Ortega**, "Wednesday;" **Riley Keough**,

## Music

## Pop star reveals 'Speak Now' date

## Taylor Swift returns to Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 7, (AP) — Taylor Swift is playing catch-up with her fans this year in a massive and impressive stadium show that embraces her artistic reinventions.

Nearly two months into the 52-show Eras Tour, Swift returned Friday to the origins of her musical career in Nashville, Tennessee, a city she outgrew as a country starlet destined for pop stardom.

In front of 70,000 fans, Swift dropped the news that she would be releasing a re-recording of her Nashville-era 2010 record, "Speak Now," on July 7.

Swift started releasing new versions of her early albums in 2021, after a dispute over the ownership of the masters, which were sold to - and then by - music executive Scooter Braun. "Speak Now," Swift's third album, will also be the third "Taylor's Version" recording - she released the re-recordings of 2008's "Fearless" and 2012's "Red" in 2021.

"Speak Now" was an album she wrote entirely by herself and she performed one of the singles, "Sparks Fly" after her announcement, followed by "Teardrops on My Guitar," from her 2006 self-titled debut record.

The tour started chaotically with a breakdown of Ticketmaster's ability to withstand the demand of fans, who were eager to see Swift after an extended hiatus from touring due to the coronavirus pandemic. Those who were lucky enough to get into the first of three shows in Nashville made sure to show out in their cosplay outfits inspired by Taylor's songs, ranging from marching band geek to cardigans and cottagecore.

"I moved to Nashville nearly 20 years ago," she told the crowd.

"And this dream I had since I was so little I can't even remember even first having it, this dream came true because of this town and the people in it."

She started off the nearly 3.5-hour show with a line from "Miss Americana & The Heartbreak Prince" as a gentle spring rain sprinkled on the crowd: "It's been a long time coming, but it's you and me, that's my whole world."

## Schemes

The Eras tour theme is a natural fit for an artist whose music is often so self-referential, winking and smiling at the previous Taylors and their moments. The show is broken up into acts, not moving chronologically through her discography, but instead presenting like a house with many rooms. The color schemes, choreographed dancers and outfits support the overall feeling of musical theater, with a stage that incorporates rising platforms and hidden trap doors she can disappear through.

With over 40 songs on the setlist from her 10 albums, Swift hits a lot of the highlights of her singles, ranging from "You Belong With Me," "Shake It Off," "Bad Blood," "Anti-Hero" and "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together." But she also made time for special songs, like her 10-minute fan favorite "All Too Well," and brought back opening act Phoebe Bridgers to perform their duet "Nothing New," a vault track released on "Red (Taylor's Version)."

It was a five-year wait to see all the glittering chapters of Swift's career on stage together, but the pop star's marathon performance carried fans through to the last notes.

## Also:

**NEW ORLEANS:** The gates opened about an hour later than usual for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival after a line of strong thunderstorms, with wind gusts of up to 60 mph (about 97 kph), prompted organizers to delay Saturday's opening.

Fans gradually began to move onto the field at the Fair Grounds Race Course about 12:15 p.m. after rain pelted the city for most of the morning.

The festival is in its final weekend for its 2023 two-week run. Saturday's scheduled performers include the rock band Dead and Company, R&B singer/musician H.E.R., the alternative folk band The Lumineers, jazz trumpeter **Terence Blanchard**, featuring The E Collective and Turtle Island Quartet, blues singer **Keb' Mo** and gospel artist **Anthony Brown** and the group therAPy.

The festival's final day was Sunday.

**LOS ANGELES:** Jonas Brothers have been super-busy lately - a stint on Broadway, appearances on "Saturday Night Live" and "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" and now a new album, called simply "The Album," out Friday, May 12. The trio have released the singles "Wings" and "Waffle House," an ode to the place they would go to decompress and connect. They may need the waffle house soon: The brothers have a one-night-only show at Yankee Stadium on Aug. 12 where they'll perform five albums in one night.

"Daisy Jones & The Six;" **Sadie Sink**, "Stranger Things" and **Selena Gomez**, "Only Murders in the Building." (AP)

Gov **Kristi Noem**'s personal cellphone number.

Stanley County Sheriff **Brad Rathbun** said **Austin Goss**, who has been fired from his job as the capitol bureau reporter for Dakota News Now, surrendered and was released on a personal

**SIoux FALLS, SD:** A broadcast reporter has been charged with making a prank phone call using South Dakota

recognition bond.

The misdemeanor count of making threatening, harassing, or misleading contacts carries a maximum penalty of one year's imprisonment and \$2,000 in fines.

Online court documents indicate that he is representing himself, and he didn't immediately respond to text or voicemail messages from The Associated Press seeking comment. Noem's spokesman, **Ian Fury**, declined to comment.

Dakota News Now and KOTA Territory News said in a joint statement that they had terminated Goss' employment with the stations, saying they were "unaware of Mr. Goss' activities and deeply regret the lack of judgment he showed."

The recipient of the "harassing phone call" was identified in the probable cause statement only as a 50-year-old with the initials D.L., The Argus Leader reported. But **Dan Lederman**, the former chair of the South Dakota Republican Party, confirmed to the paper that he was the one who was called on Jan. 22.

He had no further comment, but a special agent with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation wrote in the statement that the call came from a website called PrankDial, which was able to make it appear as though it was coming from Noem's cellphone. (AP)



Frankie Valli performs on Saturday, May 6, at the Rosemont Theatre in Rosemont, Ill. (AP)

Health

Mental health crisis

To ease kids' strain, schools 'start later'

DREXEL HILL, Pa., May 7, (AP) - In the hours before he's due at Upper Darby High School, senior Khalid Doulat has time to say prayers, help his mother or prepare for track practice.

It's a welcome shift from last year for him and thousands of students at the school, which pushed its start time back by more than two hours - from a 7:30 a.m. start time to 9:45 a.m. One goal for the change: to ease strains on students that were more visible than ever coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'll be honest, I've been much happier in the mornings," Doulat said. "I've been more positive, and I've come to school smiling more rather than, you know, grudging out of bed and stuff like that at 7:30."



Buxton

The idea of later school start times, pushed by many over the years as a way to help adolescents get more sleep, is getting a new look as a way to address the mental health crisis affecting teens across the US.

For some schools, the pandemic allowed experimentation to try new schedules. Upper Darby, for one, initially considered later start times in 2019. Ultimately, it found a way to do it this year by using distance learning as a component of the school day.

As students first came back to in-person learning, many dealt with mental health struggles and behavioral issues, Upper Darby Superintendent Daniel McGarry said. Officials saw a breakdown in students respecting the authority of teachers in the classroom.

"We had a lot of those things that we were facing and we're still working our way through it; we're in a much better place," McGarry said. "I think our kids feel better. They're not 100% better." But, he said, much of the social anxiety students felt after being in online school has dissipated.

Pandemic

During the pandemic, soaring numbers of high school students expressed persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, with girls and LGBTQ+ youth reporting the highest levels of poor mental health and suicide attempts. It doesn't help that research suggests middle and high school students aren't getting enough sleep.

"These mental health challenges are already going to happen and then, with the absence of sleep, are much worse," said Orfeu Buxton, director of the Sleep, Health & Society Laboratory at Penn State University. "The same with decision making, suicidal ideation, those kinds of things."

The reasons why high schools start as early as they do - many begin their day before 7:30 a.m. - are "lost to the sands of history," Buxton said. But now, he said, "everything is baked into that: traffic light patterns, bus schedules and adults' work."

Nationally, at least nine states are considering legislation related to school start times, up from four the previous year, according to the National Conference on State Legislatures. California in 2019 became the first and only state to dictate school start times.

Large school systems including Denver, Philadelphia and Anchorage, Alaska, have been looking into later start times.

It can require innovation to forge a new schedule.

At Upper Darby High, the school day technically still begins at 7:30 a.m., with students assigned coursework to be done remotely that ties into their lessons for the day. But they can use the early morning hours as they see fit - they can meet with teachers during office hours, sleep in or finish other homework. Ultimately, the work assigned for the early morning needs to be done, but when is up to students.

"I think getting more sleep is definitely helping," Elise Olmstead, a junior. "I would be more irritable throughout the day, especially later, because I have a lot of after-school things. I would just have a harder time getting through the day."

The school day still ends by 3 p.m.

Fatima Afrani, a freshman, said that when she gets home, she'll usually relax, then help her mom or do homework.

"If I'm tired I go to sleep, which was not something I was able to do last year. Last year I just had to get my homework done because there wasn't an option of being able to do it later," she said. "And so I liked that if I was tired, I could listen to my body and just let myself sleep."

Principal Matthew Alloway said educators have noticed fewer students sleeping in class. The new schedule also has allowed "kids to go to school for exactly what they need," he said. About 400 of the school's 4,250 students attend only through virtual learning - an option it offered to compete with online schools.

Critics have argued students have less instruction time in the new schedule. The original 80-minute periods have been shortened, but Alloway said that it's not as if lectures always took up the full 80 minutes.

"It was sometimes a 60-minute concentrated instructional time. But then there was time to write. There was time to read. There was time to view a video," he said.

Other challenges wrought by the pandemic - teacher shortages, for one - have also benefitted from the schedule change, administrators said. Teachers can take care of themselves and their families in the morning. Administrators have more time to replace staffers who call out sick.

Doulat, the Upper Darby senior, said that even if students can't see the effects every day, there's been a big positive impact. "It's such little changes in our daily lives that we don't notice it," he added. "But they slowly start building up, and we actually see the difference within our own lives."

Also:

**NEW YORK:** Babies born to opioid users had shorter hospital stays and needed less medication when their care emphasized parent involvement, skin-to-skin contact and a quiet environment, researchers reported Sunday.

Newborns were ready to go home about a week earlier compared to those getting standard care. Fewer received opioid medications to reduce withdrawal symptoms such as tremors and hard-to-soothe crying, about 20% compared to 52% of the standard-care babies.

Babies born to opioid users, including mothers in treatment with medications such as methadone, can develop withdrawal symptoms after exposure in the womb.

Typically, hospitals use a scoring system to decide which babies need medicine to ease withdrawal, which means treatment in newborn intensive care units.

"The mom is sitting there anxiously waiting for the score," said the study's lead author Dr. Leslie Young of the University of Vermont's children's hospital. "This would be really stressful for families."

In the new approach - called Eat, Sleep, Console - nurses involve mothers as they evaluate together whether rocking, breastfeeding or swaddling can calm the baby, Young said. Medicine is an option, but the environment is considered too.

"Is the TV on in the room? Do we need to turn that off? Are the lights on? Do we need to turn those down?" Young said.

About 5,000 nurses were trained during the study, published Sunday by the New England Journal of Medicine.

Researchers studied the care of 1,300 newborns at 26 US hospitals. Babies born before training were compared to babies born after.



Maureen Reid sits for a portrait with her guide dog, Gaston, at The Chicago Lighthouse, which provides services to blind and low-vision residents, on April 26, 2023, in Chicago. Her previous dog slipped off a platform edge at an 'El' station and dangled from his harness over the commuter train track as Reid yelled for help. The dog was unharmed. (AP)

Health

'Listen both ways'

Blind walkers win safer road crossings

CHICAGO, May 7, (AP) - After a retinal disease left him legally blind, architect John Gleichman was struck by a taxicab while walking home near Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo - at the same intersection where a 4-year-old girl was killed by a hit-and-run driver years earlier.

Although Maya Hirsch's death in 2006 ignited a citywide crusade for pedestrian safety improvements, almost all the electronic upgrades since then have been for people who can see. Nearly 3,000 Chicago intersections are now equipped with visual crossing signals, yet fewer than three dozen include audible cues.

A federal judge ruled in March that such disparity in the nation's third-largest city violates the Americans with Disabilities Act, a second landmark victory for blind residents who challenged the accessibility of a major city's signalized crosswalks.

"Every time I go out to go downtown for a meeting, I have to think I could get hit today and not make it home," said Gleichman, 65, who has been struck four times by vehicles while navigating the city with his white cane since being diagnosed as legally blind in 2005. He considers himself fortunate to have escaped serious injury each time.

Future court proceedings could decide how many audible crossing signals Chicago must install, but a similar case in New York City suggests it could be substantial. A federal judge there appointed an independent monitor and in December 2021 gave officials a decade to gradually make at least 10,000 of its approximately 13,000 signalized intersections accessible to blind pedestrians. It's already well ahead of schedule.

"It's been huge progress. It's a game-changer to the blind and visually impaired community," said Terence Page, president of the Greater New York Council of the Blind. "As new cities begin to build infrastructure, we want accessibility to not be an afterthought but work in parallel with the upgrades."

Accessible pedestrian signals, known as APS, have been around for decades, though the technology has evolved.

Many of Chicago's few APS-equipped intersections - including on a busy street outside The Chicago Lighthouse, which provides services

to blind and low-vision residents - still rely on beeps or cuckoo chirps to announce when it's safe to cross. Newer models actually speak the words "walk" or "don't walk," and feature tactical buttons to clarify directions so blind pedestrians don't stray into traffic. Some also convey the time remaining before the light turns red.

Sandy Murillo, a lifelong Chicago-area resident who was born with glaucoma and lost her sight at age 2, said she didn't even know about APS until she heard a strange voice say "walk" during a childhood family trip to Southern California.

"That kind of made it dawn on me," said Murillo, who produces a radio show for The Chicago Lighthouse and writes a blog on issues facing the blind community. "I thought, 'Oh, so that's what it is. They're there for people like me.'"

Chicago's Department of Transportation declined to comment on the judge's ruling, citing the ongoing litigation. But spokesperson Erica Schroeder told The Associated Press in an email that APS devices are installed at 35 intersections and "under construction, in design, or in procurement" at more than 150 others.

Intersection

The department estimates a \$50,000 to \$200,000 price tag per intersection to install APS. Grant money is available through the 2021 federal infrastructure law to help cities defray some costs.

Advocates for Chicago's blind residents say they pushed the city for years to add APS with little success before taking legal action.

Kathy Austin, a community engagement specialist at Second Sense - a downtown organization serving blind residents - recalls a meeting in 2017 or 2018 in which she and others in the blind community presented a list of the most dangerous intersections, only to be told by city officials that APS was too difficult to install in many of those places.

"There was a laundry list of excuses," Austin said.

Blind residents know from their mobility training to wait to hear the sounds of parallel traffic before crossing a street. That's often difficult in noisy downtowns like Chicago's with its overhead L trains stations and other ambient noises. Then, when the pandemic hit and downtown traffic steeply

declined, they encountered the opposite problem - not enough vehicles or even people around to help decipher when to walk or stop.

"Sometimes I would stand at an intersection for like half a minute and no car would come by," Gleichman said. "So you either ask somebody walking by, 'Do I have the light?' or you just go out in the road and hope you don't get hit."

London-based Waymap, which created a smartphone navigation app for blind pedestrians that Washington, D.C.'s subway system uses as an accessibility tool, found in a study that blind people average just 2.5 regular routes - such as from home to the office or grocery store and back - if they use a cane or 3.5 if they use a guide dog. Celso Zuccollo, Waymap's chief operating officer, said the study found that people who lack independent mobility were far more likely to experience depression.

Maureen Reid, a job-placement counselor at The Chicago Lighthouse, said she feels more comfortable than many of her blind friends moving about the city because of her familiarity with its sidewalks and the help of her guide dog, Gaston. But she acknowledges there's room for numerous safety improvements - including more tactile strips at pedestrian crosswalks and transit stations. Her previous dog slipped off a platform edge at an L station and dangled from his harness over the commuter train track as Reid yelled for help. The dog was unharmed.

San Francisco voluntarily entered a settlement with blind residents nearly two decades ago to add APS, and numerous other U.S. cities as well as the state of Maryland require it, said Torie Atkinson, senior staff attorney with Disability Rights Advocates, which represents plaintiffs in both the New York and Chicago cases.

Matt Baker, vice president of sales and marketing at Greenville, Texas-based Polara, a leading manufacturer of APS products, said the Chicago market has been one of the toughest to crack - with just a few intersections equipped with Polara devices. Baker said that could change due to the court ruling and expectations that the federal board reviewing public right-of-way issues will eventually require APS at most new or rebuilt signalized intersections nationwide.



River, a rhesus macaque, who was previously used in medical research, sits in an outdoor enclosure at Primates Inc., in Westfield, Wis., on May 13, 2019. The sanctuary is a 17-acre rural compound where research animals can live their remaining years when their studies are done. A report released on May 4, says a shortage of monkeys available for medical research undermines US readiness to respond to public Thursday, health emergencies. (AP)



Verger Ramos

Discovery

**'Chariot' stars in exhibit:** A meticulously reconstructed Pompeii bridal chariot that eluded the ancient city's modern-day looters is a star of an ambitious new exhibition in Rome, which invites viewers to reflect on today's connections with classical Roman and Greek civilizations. Shown for the first time to the public since it was discovered in 2021 under four meters (13 feet) of volcanic ash, the four-wheeled chariot features silver and bronze decorations, including of erotic scenes.

The chariot was found under the ruins of a villa just outside Pompeii, an excavation prompted by the discovery that artifact thieves were tunneling through the area in hopes of finding saleable ancient loot.

Wooden parts of the chariot, like the sideboards, didn't survive the A.D. 79 eruption of Mount Vesuvius that ended Pompeii's run as a thriving, enterprising Roman city. But to reconstruct what didn't survive of the chariot, experts used same the pioneering technique that have been employed for decades now to make casts of human victims of the eruption, by filling in the space left in the ash by the vanished organic matter.

In a sobering reminder how life can vanish in an instant, as reflected in the show's title "The instant and eternity, between us and the ancients," the casts of two male victims - one of the pair is believed to have been the enslaved person of the other man - were transported to Rome from Pompeii's archaeological park to greet visitors at the exhibition's entrance.

But the chariot is just one of many stellar pieces in the exhibition, which opens last Thursday for a three-month run in the towering, cavernous halls of the Baths of Diocletian, a structure in central Rome that dates to about A.D. 300 and now is home to the National Roman Museum just across from Rome's bustling main train station.

But the special role of ceremonial chariots long-predated Pompeii, noted the museum's director, Stephane Verger, pointing to another impressive display in the exhibition. On display are three painted walls from a third century B.C. tomb in Paestum, a city in present-day southern Italy founded by the Greeks. (AP)

'Expand breeding programs':

There's a shortage of monkeys available for medical research and the US should expand its breeding programs rather than rely on international suppliers to solve it, an influential scientific advisory panel said.

Studies using nonhuman primates, es-

pecially monkeys, have been critical to lifesaving medical advances - including creating vaccines against Covid-19 - because of their similarities to people. The US funds colonies at national primate

centers but supplies were tight and more animals were regularly imported even before the pandemic.

Then China, once a leading supplier, ended exports of research monkeys in

2020, as scientists everywhere needed more for coronavirus studies. And last fall, the US filed charges to stop a Cambodian smuggling ring accused of shipping endangered wild monkeys in place of those bred for research, further constraining supplies.

The report examined only research funded by the National Institutes of Health, deemed key to responding to public health emergencies - not drug company or other publicly or privately funded research with monkeys.

The nation's preparedness is undermined by having to depend on imports of these animals, which are especially important for infectious disease research and neuroscience, said a panel of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Highlighting that vulnerability, the US experienced a 20% drop in imports of one species, cynomolgus macaques, when China suddenly stopped shipping.

"If the US is to produce high-impact biomedical research and have a research infrastructure capable of responding to the next public health crisis, now is the time to strengthen the systems we need for nonhuman primate research," said committee chairman Dr. Kenneth Ramos of Texas A&M University.

Use of animals in biomedical research, especially nonhuman primates, is controversial. Under pressure, the NIH already retired chimpanzees, humans' closest relatives, from invasive research but has maintained there's still need for monkeys. (AP)



Upper Darby High School students Rayan Hansali (from left), Tanveer Kaur, Elise Olmstead, Fatima Afrani, Joey Ngo and Ata Ollah, talk in the campus courtyard, April 12, 2023, in Drexel Hill, Pa. For some schools, the pandemic allowed experimentation to try new schedules. Large school systems including Denver, Philadelphia and Anchorage, Alaska, have been looking into later start times. (AP)



Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka holds the winner's trophy after defeating Iga Swiatek of Poland at the end of the women's final at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

## Cincinnati edge DC United

# Espinoza, Earthquakes hand LAFC first loss of the season

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 7. (AP) Cristian Espinoza scored two goals, the second coming on a late penalty kick, and the San Jose Earthquakes handed defending-champion Los Angeles FC its first loss of the season with a 2-1 victory on Saturday night.

A red-hot Espinoza scored eight minutes into the match to give San Jose (5-3-3) a 1-0 lead. Espinoza took passes from Jamiro Monteiro and Jeremy Ebobisse and scored his seventh goal of the season. Espinoza has contributed to at least one goal in six straight matches (7 goals, 1 assist). Only Chris Wondolowski had longer streaks for the Earthquakes.

Denis Bouanga pulled LAFC (5-1-3) even in the 30th minute when he scored unassisted for his league-high-tying eighth goal of the season - joining the Seattle Sounders' Jordan Morris and Espinoza in the race for the Golden Boot.

Espinoza's eighth goal came on a penalty kick in the 83rd minute.

The Earthquakes beat LAFC for a fifth straight time at home after losing the first two meetings by a combined 9-3 score. San Jose is the first host team to beat LAFC five straight times. The Earthquakes have allowed just three goals in posting a 5-0-1 record at home to begin the season. San Jose has won 12 of its last 19 home matches after going 3-8-8 in their previous 19.

LAFC lost on the road for the first time in



FC Dallas goalkeeper Maarten Paes (30) grabs the ball against Sporting Kansas City midfielder Erik Thommy (26) during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Frisco, Texas. (AP)

10 matches dating to last season and including the playoffs.

Luciano Acosta had a goal and an assist to power FC Cincinnati to a 2-1 victory over D.C. United.

Acosta picked up his second goal of the season when he scored unassisted in the 59th minute to give Cincinnati (7-1-3) a 1-0 lead.

Cincinnati added an insurance goal in the 73rd minute when Alvaro Barreal took a pass from Acosta and found the net for the first time this season.

DC United (4-5-2) avoided being shut out on an unassisted goal by Taxiarchis Fountas in the 90th minute.

Cincinnati keeps pace with the New England Revolution atop the Eastern Conference standings with its club-record sixth straight victory at home. Cincinnati is 9-1-2 in its last 12 home contests after going

## SOCCER

8-30-16 in its previous 54.

DC United has lost its last two meetings with Cincinnati after posting a 4-0-3 record in the first seven match-ups. Cincinnati beat DC United 5-2 in October. DC United yielded just four total goals to Cincinnati the first seven times they played.

DC United entered play on a four-match win streak in all competitions - its longest win streak since a five-match run late in the 2018 season.

Hany Mukhtar scored twice on penalty kicks and polished off a hat trick in stoppage time to propel Nashville SC to a 3-0 victory over the Chicago Fire.

Mukhtar, the reigning MVP, gave Nashville (5-3-3) a 1-0 lead at halftime when he scored on a penalty kick in the third minute of stoppage time.

Mukhtar stretched the Nashville lead to 2-0 on a penalty-kick score in the 70th minute and scored his third goal unassisted in the first-minute of stoppage time. There have been three hat tricks in Nashville's history and they've all been done by Mukhtar, who doubled his goal total this season with his effort against Chicago (2-3-5).

Nashville has won nine straight matches when it scores multiple goals and improved to 2-0-2 all-time against the Fire.

Daniel Gazdag scored on a first-half penalty kick and Andre Blake made it stand up as the Philadelphia Union edged the New York Red Bulls 1-0.

## Anisimova announces indefinite break from tennis

# Sabalenka reclaims Madrid Open title

MADRID, May 7. (AP) In another meeting of the top two players in the world, Aryna Sabalenka finally got the better of Iga Swiatek on clay.

Second-ranked Sabalenka beat top-ranked Swiatek 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to reclaim the Madrid Open title on Saturday.

Sabalenka lost to Stuttgart final two weeks ago and had never previously taken a set against her Polish rival in three clay-court meetings.

But the Belarusian held nothing back by aggressively hitting for winners and breaking Swiatek four times in the 2 1/2-hour final.

The Australian Open champion claimed her tour-leading third title

of the season and 13th of her career, including her second in Madrid after triumphing here in 2021.

She told Swiatek on court, "It is always tough against each other and you always push me to my limits. I

## TENNIS

hope we will play many more times this season."

It was the first WTA 1000 final between the top two ranked players since No. 1 Serena Williams beat No. 2 Li Na at the 2014 Miami Open. It was also only the third time

in the last 40 years that the top two women met twice on clay in a single season.

Swiatek, a three-time Grand Slam winner, entered the match with a 5-2 record against Sabalenka. But she was clearly flustered early on by Sabalenka's superb hitting. She shook her head and talked to her coach in the stands after costly hitting errors.

After Sabalenka commanded the first set and the start of the second, Swiatek found her composure and leveled the set score.

The decisive set could have gone either way.

The WTA Tour says **Amanda**

Anisimova plans to take an indefinite break from tennis, citing burn-out and concerns for her mental health.

"I've really been struggling with my mental health and burnout since the summer of 2022," the former world No. 21 American wrote on Instagram on Friday. Anisimova, now 21, reached the French Open semifinals after beating reigning champion **Simona Halep** to reach the final four at 17 - the youngest woman to get that far at a major since 2006.

But later that year, just prior to the 2019 U.S. Open, her father and longtime coach **Konstantin** died at age 52 from a heart attack.

# Cards losing run reaches eight, longest in 16 years



San Francisco Giants pitcher Camilo Doval works against the Milwaukee Brewers during the ninth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco. (AP)

## Red Sox continue good streak

ST. LOUIS, May 7. (AP) The Cardinals extended a losing streak to eight for the first time in 16 years, losing to the Detroit Tigers 6-5 on Saturday in Adam Wainwright's return from the injured list as Akil Baddoo hit a go-ahead double in the 10th inning.

St. Louis is on its longest skid since nine straight losses from Sept. 7-15, 2007. At a National League-worst 10-24, the Cardinals are 14 games under .500 for the first time since ending the 1997 season at 73-89.

Baddoo doubled off Giovanni Gallegos (1-2), giving the win to José Cisneros (2-0).

Wainwright, starting his 19th and what he said will be his final major league season, allowed four runs and eight hits over five-plus innings after recovering from a groin injury.

Red Sox 7, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Bryce Harper homered for the first time since Tommy John surgery on Nov. 23, a fifth-inning drive off Corey Kluber (2-4), but Philadelphia lost its sixth straight and dropped to 15-19. Harper is 6 for 16 since his return.

Rafael Devers had three hits and two RBIs to lead the Red Sox to

kept San Diego in check for six scoreless innings as the NL West-leading Dodgers held off the Padres for their seventh win in eight games.

The Dodgers rebounded from a 5-2 loss Friday night in the teams' first meeting since the Padres eliminated the Dodgers in four games in the NL Division Series.

Padres lefty Blake Snell (1-5) had retired the first 11 batters before walking Will Smith and then allowing Taylor's homer to the balcony on the second level of the brick warehouse in the left field corner. It was Taylor's sixth and the Dodgers' 55th, trailing Atlanta by one for the NL lead.

May (4-1) held the Padres to just three singles - two by Fernando Tatis Jr. - while striking out six and walking one.

## Rockies 5, Mets 2

In New York, Rookie Ezequiel Tovar had three hits, including a two-run homer, and Austin Gomber (3-4) won his third straight outing, allowing two runs and five hits over six innings.

Pierce Johnson struck out two in a one-hit ninth for his fifth save.

Elias Diaz had a pair of two-out RBI singles, boosting his batting average to .452 (14 for 31) with runners in scoring position, and the last-place Rockies won for the fifth time in six games.

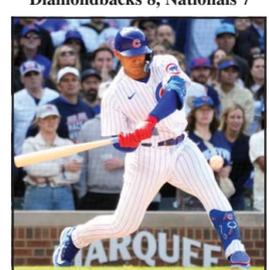
Taylor Megill (3-2) walked three in 4 2/3 innings. With a major league-record \$355 million payroll, New York (17-17) has lost 10 of 13 since winning eight of nine.

## Cubs 4, Marlins 2

In Chicago, Nick Madrigal hit a two-run single in the eighth off A.J. Puk (3-1) and pinch-hitter Miguel Amaya followed with an RBI single for his first big league hit.

Keegan Thompson (2-2) pitched three innings for the win and Adbert Alzolay worked the ninth for his first save since 2021.

## Diamondbacks 8, Nationals 7



Chicago Cubs' Miguel Amaya swings into a pinch-hit RBI single, in his first major league at bat, during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins in Chicago. (AP)

In Phoenix, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had four hits, including a tying homer in the ninth, and pinch-hitter Pavin Smith walked with the bases loaded to force in the winning run as the Diamondbacks beat the Nationals.

Gurriel hit his third homer of the season on the first pitch from Kyle Finnegan (1-2). The play was challenged by Washington because left fielder Stone Garrett leaped to catch the ball and hit a fan in the process, but the call stood.

Christian Walker singled and Corbin Carroll walked, and Dominic Fletcher sacrificed. After Geraldo Perdomo was intentionally walked, Smith took a 3-1 pitch out of the zone to end the game.

Miguel Castro (1-0) got one out for the victory.

## Guardians 4, Twins 3

In Cleveland, Steven Kwan connected against Jorge Alcalá (0-1) for his first home run since last season to break a 3-3, a seventh-inning tie.

Max Kepler hit a two-run homer and Carlos Correa added a solo shot for the AL Central-leading , who have homered in a team record 18 straight games.

Reliever Trevor Stephan (2-1) allowed Correa's tying homer in the seventh, and Emmanuel Clase pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 11th save.

## Blue Jays 8, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Brandon Belt hit a two-run double in a four-run first against Johan Oviedo (2-3), and Toronto extended Pittsburgh's losing streak to a season-high six games after a 20-8 start.

José Berrios (3-3) gave up two runs and five hits over 6 1/3 innings with seven strikeouts and one walk as Toronto won its second straight after a five-game skid.

## Reds 5, White Sox 3

In Cincinnati, TJ Friedl hit a three-run homer off Mike Clevinger (2-3) in the fifth and added an RBI triple in the seventh.

Jonathan India India went 3 for 3 and scored three times. Derek Law (2-4) pitched 2 1/3 scoreless innings, and Alexis Díaz got three outs for his sixth save.

## Giants 4, Brewers 1

San Francisco, Willie Mays was on hand as his 92nd birthday was celebrated, and Alex Cobb (2-1) allowed five hits in seven scoreless innings, stretching Milwaukee's losing streak to six.

Thairo Estrada homered off Colin Rea (0-3) and rookie infielder Brett Wisely also connected for his first big league home run.

San Francisco has won four in a row. Camilo Doval got two outs for his seventh save.

## Braves 5, Orioles 4

In Atlanta, Kevin Pillar hit a pinch-hit two-run home run off Danny Coulombe (1-1) in the eighth, dropping Baltimore to its fifth loss in 21 games.

A.J. Minter (1-3) pitched a perfect eighth and closer Raisel Iglesias got the save in his first appearance of the season after recovering from a strained right shoulder.

Spencer Strider struck out 10 in five innings, giving up two runs. The Braves are 7-0 in his starts.

## Athletics 5, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Oakland won consecutive games for the first time this season as Ryan Noda had a triple and double, reaching base four times in a game between teams tied for the worst record in the major leagues at 8-26.

Ken Waldichuk (1-2) allowed four runs, six hits and six walks in five innings with six strikeouts. Zach Jackson retired Bobby Witt Jr. on a game-ending groundout with two on for his first save this season.

Brady Singer (2-4) gave up five runs and six hits in four innings.

## Mariners 7, Astros 5

In Seattle, J.P. Crawford's two-out, three-run double pulled Seattle even, Jose Caballero followed two batters later with a two-run double, and the Mariners scored seven times in the eighth inning.

Stymied for the first seven innings by Houston starter J.P. France and two relievers, the Mariners erupted against Astros relievers Rafael Montero and Ryne Stanek, with all the damage coming with two outs.

Seattle's rally started when Eugenio Suárez walked on a 3-2 pitch with two outs off Rafael Montero (0-1). Cal Raleigh reached on a check-swing dribbler that barely got past the mound and Teoscar Hernández's grounder deep in the hole at shortstop loaded the bases.

Crawford lined a 3-1 fastball to the wall in right-center field clearing the bases. Ryne Stanek walked pinch-hitter Taylor Trammell before Caballero lined a shot into the left-center field gap. Julio Rodríguez and Jarred Kelenic also added RBI singles.

## Rangers 10, Angels 1

In Los Angeles, Nathan Eovaldi threw eight scoreless innings and Texas beat Los Angeles.

Eovaldi (4-2) followed up a complete game shutout against the New York Yankees last Saturday by taking his scoreless streak to 20 innings. He allowed five hits and two walks, helping the Rangers snap a four-game road losing streak.

Jonah Heim had three RBIs, and Robbie Grossman got a hit for the 14th straight game.

## MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, May 7. (AP) Results and standings from the MLB games on Saturday.

Detroit	6	St Louis 10 inn	5	Texas	10	LA Angels	1
NY Yankees	3	Tampa Bay	2	Seattle	7	Houston	5
Cleveland	4	Minnesota	3	Chicago Cubs	4	Miami	2
Toronto	8	Pittsburgh	2	Colorado	5	NY Mets	2
Cincinnati	5	Chicago W. Sox	3	San Francisco	4	Milwaukee	1
Boston	7	Philadelphia	4	Arizona	8	Washington	7
Atlanta	5	Baltimore	4	LA Dodgers	2	San Diego	1
Oakland	5	Kansas City	4				

American League				National League					
East Division				East Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Tampa Bay	27	7	.794	Atlanta	23	11	.676	-	
Baltimore	22	11	.667	4-1/2	New York	17	17	.500	-
Boston	21	14	.600	6-1/2	Miami	16	18	.471	7
Toronto	20	14	.588	7	Philadelphia	15	19	.441	8
New York	18	16	.529	9	Washington	13	20	.398	9-1/2
Central Division				Central Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Minnesota	19	15	.559	-	Pittsburgh	20	14	.588	-
Detroit	15	17	.469	3	Milwaukee	18	15	.545	1-1/2
Cleveland	15	18	.455	3-1/2	Chicago	17	16	.515	2-1/2
Chicago	11	23	.324	8	Cincinnati	14	19	.424	5-1/2
Kansas City	8	26	.235	11	St Louis	10	24	.294	10
West Division				West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Texas	19	13	.594	-	Los Angeles	20	14	.588	-
Los Angeles	19	15	.559	1	Arizona	19	14	.576	-1/2
Houston	17	16	.515	2-1/2	San Diego	18	16	.529	2
Seattle	16	17	.485	3-1/2	San Francisco	15	17	.469	4
Oakland	8	26	.235	12	Colorado	13	21	.382	7

## Milan sprints to Giro stage 2 win

SAN SALVO, Italy, May 7. (AP) Jonathan Milan sprinted to victory in a crash-affected finale of the second stage of the Giro d'Italia on Sunday, while pre-race favorite Remco Evenepoel held on to the leader's pink jersey.

It is Milan's first Grand Tour and the 22-year-old Italian punched his fist in the air in delight as he crossed the line. The Bahrain Victorious rider edged out David Dekker and Kaden Groves in a bunch sprint at the end of the 202-kilometer (126-mile) route from Teramo to San Salvo.

"It's something that is incredible, I'm without words," Milan said. "I cannot believe it because it's my first Giro, second stage.

"Yesterday I did a nice time trial, I was quite happy, I was pushing good but I could never imagine that today was coming a victory."

## BASEBALL

their eighth consecutive victory, their longest winning streak since July 2021.

Boston broke the game open with five runs and six hits in the fourth inning against Bailey Falter (0-6).

## Yankees 3, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Harrison Bader flared a two-run single off Kevin Kelly (3-1) in a three-run eighth after DJ LeMahieu hit an RBI double.

Tampa Bay had been 22-0 when scoring first, matching the 1884 St. Louis Maroons of the Union Association for the longest winning streak opening a season when scoring first, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The Rays are 18-3 at Tropicana Field.

Ron Marinaccio (1-1) went 1 1/3 scoreless innings and Ian Hamilton worked around Luke Raley's two-out double in the ninth for his first major league save.

## Dodgers 2, Padres 1

In San Diego, Chris Taylor hit a two-run home run and Dustin May

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# Edmonton ties series with Golden Knights

Draisaitl, McDavid shine

**LAS VEGAS, May 7, (AP):** Asked whether an extra day off on the road could hurt his Edmonton Oilers, after a schedule change moved Game 2 of the Western Conference semifinal series from Friday to Saturday, coach Jay Woodcroft chuckled and answered with confidence.

"Whether we're home, away, or in Hudson Bay, it doesn't matter to us where we play - we are one of the top road teams in the National Hockey League," Woodcroft said before the game.

Then the Oilers proved it. Leon Draisaitl and Connor McDavid each scored twice and Edmonton tied their series at one game apiece with a 5-1 victory over the Vegas Golden Knights.

"I liked our start. I thought we did some things that we wanted to do, we asserted ourselves right off the bat and played the game at the pace that we wanted to play," Woodcroft said after the game. "Part of that was how we managed pucks, and part of it was the way the game played itself out."

It was a vast difference from Game 1 on Wednesday, when Vegas dictated the pace and showed resiliency in matching the Oilers goal for goal before pulling away for a 6-4 victory.

Game 3 will be Monday in Edmonton, where the Oilers were 23-12-6 during the regular season.

## ICE HOCKEY

"We played a lot faster, I thought we were more connected, I thought we were a little bit more aggressive, you know, all the things that we've been building towards," said McDavid, who is on a seven-game point streak, with five goals and 10 assists.

Draisaitl, who scored four goals in the first game, has now tallied at least one point in the first eight games of the post-season, posting 17 points (13 goals, 4 assists).

Evan Bouchard also scored for the Oilers, while rookie goaltender Stuart Skinner stopped 30 shots.

"Our emphasis on that (defensive) side of things showed up, and when called upon tonight, Stuart answered admirably," Woodcroft added. "He was excellent when called upon."

Ivan Barbashev ruined Skinner's bid for a shutout less than two minutes into the third period by scoring his third goal of the series, the lone goal for the Golden Knights.

Vegas goaltender Laurent Brossoit stopped 27 of the 32 shots he faced before being pulled after two periods. Brossoit came into the game 5-0 in his previous five appearances dating to Game 2 of the opening round. Adin Hill finished the game and made four saves in the third period.

Edmonton got an early power-play opportunity, and after Brossoit made three incredible saves, Draisaitl scored his 12th goal of the post-season to put Edmonton up early, 1-0.

The Oilers made it 2-0 just seven minutes into the game with their second power-play opportunity thanks to Bouchard's blast from the blue line.

The point production on special teams continued midway through the opening stanza when McDavid poked the puck away from Vegas' Shea Theodore and turned on the afterburners for a breakaway shorthanded goal to push Edmonton's lead to 3-0.

And when Draisaitl scored his second of the game to put Edmonton on top 4-0, the Oilers had more goals at the time than the Golden Knights had shots on goal (3).

Vegas finished the first period with four shots on goal, while Edmonton had thrown 19 at Brossoit.

With Jack Eichel in the box for Vegas, it took only eight seconds into the power play for the Oilers to build on their lead, as McDavid beat Brossoit to make it 5-0.

"They were a lot better than us, they were ready to play," Vegas coach Bruce Cassidy said. "We weren't, for whatever reason, falls on the coach to prepare your team to play, so didn't do a good enough job there. They were just much better than us."

Draisaitl became the second player in NHL history to score 12 or more through his first eight games in a single post-season, following Newsy Lalonde (15) with the Canadiens in 1919. Draisaitl also became the second player in Stanley Cup Playoffs history to score eight or more goals through his first five road games in a post-season, joining Frederick Taylor (9) with the Vancouver Millionaires in 1918.



Edmonton Oilers center Klim Kostin (21) and Vegas Golden Knights center Ivan Barbashev (49), vie for the puck during the first period of Game 2 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup second-round playoff series in Las Vegas. (AP)



Horses compete the 149th running of the Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. (AP)

I never give up: Castellano

## Mage wins Kentucky Derby amid 7th death

**LOUISVILLE, Ky., May 7, (AP):** After seven deaths raised questions about the future of horse racing, Mage earned a surprising Kentucky Derby victory on Saturday, capping a nerve-rattling day that included two more fatalities ahead of the 149th edition of the world's most famous race.

Mage, a 15-1 shot, had only one win in his career, giving little indication that he could triumph against 17 rivals in a race that is not kind to the inexperienced.

Still, he made a gutsy stretch run, overtaking Two Phil's to his inside and winning by a length. Mage, who didn't race as a 2-year-old, ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:01.57.

Mage joined Justify (2018), Big Brown (2008) and Regret (2015) as Derby winners with just three previous starts.

"He proved today that it didn't matter," assistant trainer and co-owner Gustavo Delgado Jr. said.

The colt was in the skilled hands of Javier Castellano, a Hall of Fame jockey who hasn't been as in-demand lately. The 45-year-old Castellano snapped an 0-for-15 skid in the Derby.

"I never give up," Castellano said. "I always try hard to do the right thing. It took me a little while to get there. I finally got it."

## HORSE RACING

Castellano and trainer Gustavo Delgado are from Venezuela. Mage joined Canonero II as Derby winners with Venezuelan ties. Canonero II won the Derby and Preakness in 1971.

Going into the backstretch, Mage was ahead of just three horses. Castellano and Mage began picking off the competition and on the far turn launched their run.

"Turning for home, he had a lot of heart," Castellano said. "He's a little horse with a big heart."

Two Phil's stormed to the lead at the top of the stretch. Mage swung to the outside and took aim on the leader. Mage passed

him at the eighth-pole and went on to victory.

"Everything went according to plan," Delgado Jr. said. "This is the dream I have, a year-and-a-half ago, I wrote a note: 'We're going to win the Derby next year.'"

For the early favorite, was scratched in the morning with a bruised foot, one of five horses that dropped out in the run-up to the race.

Mage paid \$32.42, \$14.58 and \$9.08. The colt earned \$1,860,000 for the biggest win of his brief career.

Two Phil's returned \$10.44 and \$6.52.

"Man, he tried so hard and ran his heart out," said Larry Rivelli, who trains Two Phil's.

Angel of Empire, the 4-1 favorite, was another half-length back in third in front of a crowd of 150,335 on a warm and partly cloudy day at Churchill Downs. He paid \$4.70 to show.



Javier Castellano, atop Mage, reacts in the winner's circle after winning the 149th running of the Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. (AP)

Earlier in the day, Chloe's Dream, a 3-year-old gelding, and Freezing Point, a 3-year-old colt, were euthanized after being injured in their races, becoming the sixth and seventh horses to have died at the track in recent days.

"It's a very difficult subject to touch upon," said Ramiro Restrepo, part of Mage's ownership and a blood stock agent. "I'm sure there's going to be some investigations done as to the reason behind that, and hopefully that provides a few more answers."

The string of horse deaths was on the mind of some Derby-goers.

"It's concerning, and I hope they're quickly trying the best they can to correct whatever's going on," said Michael Freeze, who along with his friend dressed up as jockeys. "They need to do whatever is best for the horses, and the sport in general."

Chloe's Dream injured his right front knee, trainer Jeff Hiles told The Associated

Press. "He just took a bad step out there," Hiles said. "They could do the same thing running in the field as they could on the track. So it's very unfortunate. That's what we deal with."

Freezing Point suffered a left ankle injury in the Pat Day Mile, trainer Joe Lejzerowicz told the AP.

"He just got bumped in the backstretch," Lejzerowicz said. "He never took a bad step or bobble. He had a big heart."

New antidoping and medication rules enforced by a central governing body of the sport are scheduled to take effect May 22.

"All I can say is we do our best to take care of our horses. We treat them better than we treat our children. And we have full confidence in the soundness of our horse," Restrepo said. "We've been training here for two weeks, and he actually has been flourishing at this racetrack."

The deaths included Derby contender Wild On Ice. Two of the horses were trained by Saffie Joseph Jr. He was indefinitely suspended by the track, although investigators have yet to determine a cause for the deaths of his horses.

A relieved Tim Yakteen, who trained Reincarnate to a 13th-place finish, said, "The most important thing is the horse came out of it OK."

Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert, a two-time Triple Crown winner, is nearing the end of a two-year ban issued by Churchill Downs Inc. One of his horses, Medina Spirit, crossed the finish line first in the 2021 Derby and failed a post-race drug test. The horse was disqualified and Baffert was punished.

In 2019, over 30 horse deaths occurred at California's Santa Anita racetrack, rattling the industry and leading to safety reforms. Kentucky Derby-winning trainer Rick Dutrow had his license revoked in 2011 for 10 years by New York officials. Regulators found syringes loaded with unauthorized medication in a desk in his barn. Dutrow served his punishment and re-opened his stable last month.

Martinez knocks out Batista to retain WBC flyweight title

## Canelo dominates Ryder in return to Mexico

**GUADALAJARA, Mexico, May 7, (AP):** Canelo Alvarez returned home and remained the undisputed super middleweight champion Saturday night, beating John Ryder by unanimous decision before more than 50,000 fans in his first fight in Mexico since 2011. In the undercard, Julio Cesar "Rey" Martinez (19-2) knocked out Ronal Batista (15-2) to retain the WBC flyweight title.

Alvarez bloodied the British challenger's nose and knocked him down, cruising to the victory by scores of 120-107 on one card and 118-109 on the other two to improve to 59-2-2.

"I hit him too much in the head and he did not go down," Canelo said at ring side after the fight. "I've always said it, when they fight me, they give their 100%, it gets complicated because they usually give me the fight of their lives."

Ryder said that he suffered what is probably a broken nose in the second round and that played a major role in having his four-bout winning streak stopped and is 32-6.

"He's probably past his best, he could not get me out there, he wanted to stop me and could not do it," Ryder said at a press conference. "It could have been a little different without the problem to my nose, it took me a few rounds to get adjusted."

It was Canelo's first fight since he had surgery on his left wrist last

March. Before the fight, he said the injury slowed him down in his previous four fights, including his loss to Russian light heavyweight champion Dmitry Bivol a year ago.

"In the first rounds I was not confident, but then I started punching strong with it, and that gives me motivation going forward," added the Mexican.

After getting a hard-fought victory over Ryder, Canelo has his eyes set on a rematch against Bivol in September and plans to fight him at 175 pounds.

"I don't want to make any ex-

cuses from what happened the last time, it's pointless, but this time my preparation will be different because now (that he's injury free) I can do a different preparation to do all of the things that needs to be done."

In a fight that was touted as the "King is Coming Home", the sold-out crowd at Akron stadium in Guadalajara, just 25 miles away from Juanacatlan, the small town where Canelo grew up, screamed deliriously during the whole fight.

"It was different, I've fought in stadiums before, but tonight was

very different, the vibe of the crowd was awesome, I'm very thankful," added Alvarez.

Amongst his family and friends, Canelo had his 94-year-old grandmother, Enedina, who watched him fight for the first time in his career.

"She gets really nervous, she does not even watch my fights on TV, it was hard convincing her to come, but she said that she wanted to do it for me, and it was very special," added Canelo.

Alvarez and Ryder started a slow-paced fight in the first two rounds, but Canelo connected with a straight right and Ryder started bleeding from the nose after the third round.

The Mexican kept pressing the action in the fourth round, landing body shots, and then sent Ryder to the mat with a right hook to the chin.

## BOXING

Ryder made Canelo uncomfortable in the fifth and landed a few shots on the face of the Mexican, but Alvarez landed another right in the ninth. Ryder stumbled, but rallied and answered with a shot that shook the Mexican.

Ryder, with a bloodied face, closed the fight well in the last two rounds, but was not enough to get the upset.



Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez, (center), of Mexico celebrates after defeating John Ryder of Britain in their super middleweight title boxing match at the Akron Stadium in Guadalajara, Mexico. (AP)

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Osasuna's Ante Budimir, (top), jumps for the ball with Real Madrid's David Alaba during the Copa del Rey soccer final between Real Madrid and Osasuna at La Cartuja stadium in Seville, Spain. (AP)

# Sports

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## Real win first Copa in nearly a decade



Real Madrid team players and head coach Carlo Ancelotti celebrate with the trophy after Madrid defeated Osasuna 2-1 in the Copa del Rey soccer final at La Cartuja stadium in Seville, Spain. (AP)

### Rodrygo the hero

SEVILLE, Spain, May 7, (AP) — Rodrygo and Vinicius Júnior completed their collection of club trophies for Real Madrid after helping win the club its first Copa del Rey in nearly a decade.

Vinicius provided the playmaking and Rodrygo struck two goals in a 2-1 victory over a feisty Osasuna side that fell behind shortly after kickoff but was never out of the final.

While Karim Benzema had a subdued performance, his attack partners were decisive.

The pair of 22-year-old Brazil forwards have now won all the titles possible at the club level, after adding the Spanish cup to their European Cup, Spanish league, Club World Cup, UEFA Super Cup and Spanish Super Cup titles.

Next up: defend the Champions League title that both were critical to winning last year for a record-extending 14th time.

Manchester City arrives to the Spanish capital on Tuesday to start their rematch of last year's Champions League semifinal won by Madrid.

"(Vinicius and Rodrygo) made the difference," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "Vini caused them lots of problems in the first half. Rodrygo scored two goals. These two players decide games."

"Like all finals, it was suffering and then happiness. We are going to celebrate a little bit and then think about Tuesday."

Rodrygo was set up by Vinicius after two minutes at La Cartuja Stadium.



Rodrygo

### Kompany signs new 5-year deal

## Celtic win Scottish league for 2nd part of treble bid

EDINBURGH, May 7, (AP) — It's two down and one to go for treble-chasing Celtic in Scottish soccer.

The Glasgow club clinched the second leg of its latest bid for three domestic trophies in one season by retaining the league title Sunday with four games to spare.

A 2-0 win at Hearts left Celtic with an unassailable lead over second-place Rangers, its fierce city rival, in the Scottish Premiership. Rangers, beware. Celtic now has 53 league titles in its history — only two off Rangers' record haul of 55 — after winning a 11th championship in the last 12 years.

Celtic had already won the Scottish League Cup, beating Rangers 2-1 in the final in February, and plays Inverness Caledonian Thistle in the Scottish FA Cup final on June 3 in an attempt to complete the treble — a feat the team achieved every year from 2017-20.

Celtic has only lost one of its 34 league



Celtic's Kyogo Furuhashi celebrates after the Scottish Premiership soccer match between Heart of Midlothian and Celtic Glasgow, at Tynecastle Stadium, in Edinburgh. (AP)

as manager at Turf Moor.

The former Belgium defender has been linked with vacancies at both Chelsea and Tottenham but said it "feels right" to stay on at Burnley.



Crystal Palace promised Sunday to issue a club ban to a spectator who is alleged to have racially abused Tottenham forward Son Heung-min during a Premier League match between the teams.

Footage has circulated on social media of a man in the away end at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium making what appears to be a racist gesture toward Son on Saturday.

### Butler scores 28, Heat top Knicks in Game 3

## Lakers rout Warriors, take 2-1 series lead

LOS ANGELES, May 7, (AP) — LeBron James didn't take a shot in the first quarter of Game 3 for the first time in his NBA-record 275 playoff appearances, and the Los Angeles Lakers' home crowd rumbled with mild uncertainty each time he passed the ball instead.

Turns out James and his Lakers were just taking a while to warm up before they steamrolled the Golden State Warriors.

Anthony Davis hit 25 points and 13 rebounds, a slow-starting James finished with 21 points, eight assists and eight rebounds, and the Lakers took a 2-1 lead in their second-round playoff series with a 127-97 victory Saturday night.

D'Angelo Russell hit five 3-pointers while scoring 21 points for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who remained unbeaten at home in the postseason with a strong defensive effort against the reigning NBA champions. Los Angeles seized control in the middle quarters, outscoring the Warriors 63-38 to turn Game 3 into a laugher.

"We're one of the best defensive teams in the league, if not the best," James said. "For us to reach our potential, we have to defend at a high level. Not one team in this league tests you more in that than Golden State, so we have to be alert for a test on every single possession."

James curiously didn't shoot the ball until well into the second quarter, yet he led the way while Los Angeles pulled away. The 38-year-old also mixed in a handful of plays that defied his age and 20 years of NBA experience, making a deft spin move and blocking a shot on

the other end shortly after he leaped the front row of fans and ran well up into the stands following a deflection.

Stephen Curry scored 23 points and Andrew Wiggins had 16 in a collective stinker for the Warriors, who committed 19 turnovers and never mounted a response to the Lakers on either end in the second half.

Golden State went 13 for 44 on 3-pointers — making just 10 while the game was still competitive — after hitting 21 in each of the series' first two games in San Francisco. Game 4 is Monday night in Los Angeles.

Davis had an impressive bounce-back game under both baskets, blocking four shots and leading the Lakers' last-second defensive effort. Los Angeles

### BASKETBALL

has built its 16-5 run since March 17 on defense, and the Warriors couldn't hit enough shots from the perimeter to counteract their disadvantages in size and athleticism.

Klay Thompson had 15 points and seven rebounds for the Warriors, but the rest of the roster beyond their top three scorers struggled mightily, combining for just 18 points before coach Steve Kerr pulled his starters with 9:11 to play. Draymond Green had two points in 23 minutes while playing with foul trouble.

The Warriors were held under 100 points for only the fifth time in 92 games this season. They also got two technical fouls for arguing with the officials, who whistled Golden State for 22 fouls to the Lakers' 21.

Jimmy Butler returned from his sprained ankle to score 28 points, Max Strus added 19 and the Miami Heat topped the New York Knicks 105-86 to take a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Bam Adebayo had 17 points and 12 rebounds for Miami and Kyle Lowry added 14 points as the Heat never trailed.

Duncan Robinson opened the second quarter with a 3-pointer, giving Miami an 11-point lead — and the lead remained double digits the rest of the way.

Jalen Brunson scored 20 for New York, which got 15 from Josh Hart, 14 from RJ Barrett and 12 from Immanuel Quickley — who left midway through the fourth quarter after appearing to twist his left ankle. Julius Randle added 10 points and 14 rebounds for the Knicks.

Game 4 is Monday.

There was even a Heat-Knicks dust-up under a basket, just like the good ol' days of the teams' playoff rivalry — though this one was nothing like P.J. Brown flipping Charlie Ward in 1997 to start a bench-clearing mess that led to suspensions, or Jeff Van Gundy tugging on Alonzo Mourning's leg in 1998.

This one, such as it was, happened with 14.7 seconds left in the third, after a basket by Quickley got the Knicks within 87-70.

Randle and Cody Zeller got tangled as they fought for rebounding position. Randle ended up getting shoved to the floor, Isaiah Hartenstein took offense and shoved Zeller, Caleb Martin took offense and shoved Hartenstein, and it took about five minutes to sort out a mess that lasted for about five seconds.



Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis, (left), shoots as Golden State Warriors forward Kevon Looney defends during the first half in Game 3 of an NBA basketball Western Conference semifinal in Los Angeles. (AP)

### SOCCER

Osasuna's Lucas Torró equalized in the 58th, but Rodrygo put Madrid back ahead for good in the 70th.

Since winning its last Copa del Rey in 2014, the 14-time European Cup winner had won four Champions Leagues while falling short in the Spanish cup.

That changed on Saturday, when it defeated an Osasuna that was seeking its first major title in club history after also losing its only other Copa del Rey final in 2005. Madrid has 20 Copa del Rey titles, behind only Barcelona (31) and Athletic Bilbao (23).

"We had been talking all week about how it had been a long time since Real Madrid had won this title," Rodrygo said. "I really wanted to win this title since it was this that was the only (club) title I was missing." Benzema celebrated his club record-matching 25th title with Madrid after he received the cup from Spain's King Felipe VI, who presided the game after he attended the coronation of King Charles III in London.

Rodrygo was key to Madrid's run to its record-extending 14th-European Cup last season. And against Osasuna he proved clutch in yet another big match, especially when cued by countryman Vinicius.

Vinicius dribbled past both Jon Moncayola and Rubén Peña before slipping the ball past three other defenders to find Rodrygo in the middle of the area to score the early opener.

"It is very tough to defend Vinicius as City will see on Tuesday," said Osasuna coach Jagoba Arrasate, who wept after the final whistle from what he said was the "built up tension."

But Osasuna, a modest club from Pamplona in northern Spain, had its chances, too. Abde Ezzalzouli came close to leveling in the 26th when he broke past the defense and chipped goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, only for Dani Carvajal to rush back and clear to safety.

The action didn't stop as David Alaba surprised with a long free kick that rattled the crossbar in the 28th.

The vibrant start unfortunately was cut short when tempers flared mostly between Vinicius and a couple of Osasuna players after run-ins. The referee booked Vinicius apparently for protesting. The tempers spilled over into halftime when Vinicius and Osasuna reserve Chimy Avila were separated by teammates as they went through the tunnel to the changing rooms.

Osasuna started better in the second half and its insistence paid off when a cross from Abde was deflected by Carvajal and fell to Torró arriving unmarked at the top of the area. The midfielder could not have picked a better time of the season to score his first goal when he lashed a right-footed shot into the lower corner of Courtois' net.

### SOCCER

games this season — at St. Mirren in September — and there was little danger of a second defeat after Hearts defender Alex Cochrane was sent off in the 45th minute with the score at 0-0 at Tynecastle.



Vincent Kompany signed a new five-year contract with Burnley on Sunday, tying him to the recently promoted club until at least 2028.

Kompany, a Manchester City great as a player, has just led Burnley back into the Premier League in his first sea-

### World freediving champ'ship kick-offs

KUWAIT CITY, May 7, (KUNA) — CMAS World Freediving Indoor Championship involving men and women athletes will launch Monday with divers from 44 nations partaking.

The opening ceremony, due to be held at Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed's aquatic indoor facility, will be attended by a number of officials from various ministries and administrations. The championship, one of the largest sports tournaments of its kind, would be organized at Al-Nasr SC Complex.

In a statement to KUNA, President of the Kuwaiti Diving Rescue Club Talal Al-Sarhan said the hosting of the championship is considered among the largest of its scale, as the organizing committee is looking forward to the outcomes.

While pointing out that a tourna-

ment with 350 participants is not an easy task, requiring double efforts to avoid any mistakes with a successful outcome, Al-Sarhan appreciated Minister of Youth Affairs Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi's encouragement, support by the Kuwait Olympic Committee and its Chairman of the Board of Directors Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah along with Director General of the Public Authority for Sports Youssef Al-Baidan to make it an efficacious tournament.

The event will be taking place from the 7th of May until the 13th, with 350 divers partaking. A number of the countries' ambassadors will be attending along with President of the Arab and Egyptian Federation for Diving and Rescue Captain Sameh Al-Shazly.